Heart of Uptown — Front line fight to prevent fires

KEEP STRONG

March, 1980 *Voices of Chicago's Communities* $1.00

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MAR 20 1980

Finance Authority directs School Board to 'double the cuts'

Byrne's transit plan: "You won't get to heaven, or to and from work."

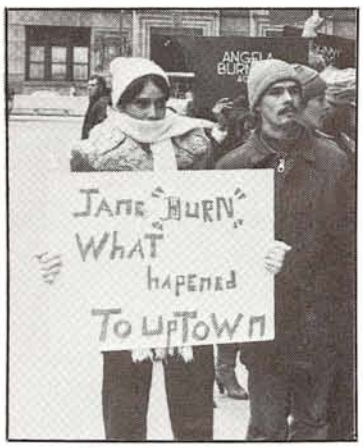
Pritzker family cutting the heart from County Hospital

Blowing out Chicago's municipal unions

Elgin Watch shutting down — 13,000 jobs leave Chicago yearly

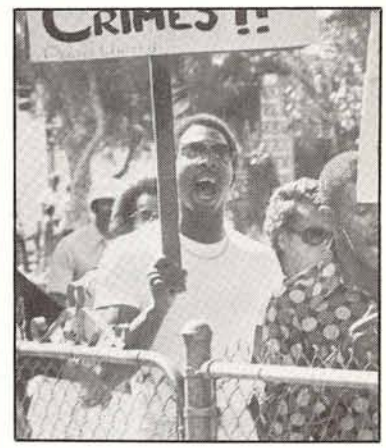
Organize to Resist!

THIS MONTH IN

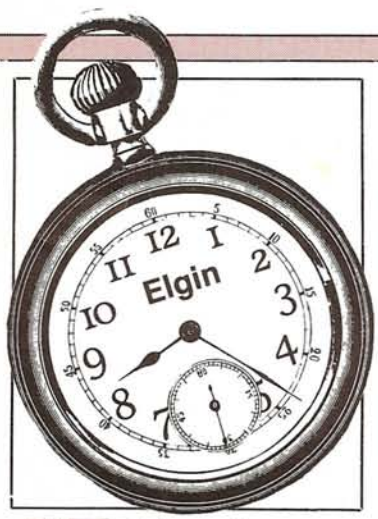


3 In the wake of city-wide hearings on arson, Chicago's firemen went on strike. The Heart of Uptown's Emergency Fire Patrol proves that the survival of the community depends on the people.

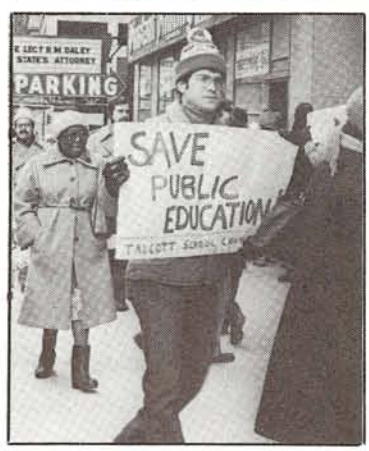
12 The Pritzkers and George Dunne want to axe County Hospital's neighborhood clinics. But the Uptown community's militant fight will force the County Board to keep the health centers open.



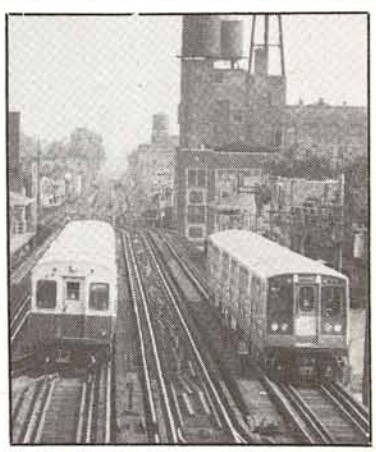
14 A city-wide Coalition in Los Angeles campaigns for a citizen elected police review board. "It's time to halt the reign of terror of the LAPD."



27 Chicago loses another 300 jobs when Elgin Watch Co. moves to Miami this June. The Economic Development Commission doesn't seem to care — they want Chicago to be the headquarters for international business.



30 Parents and teachers across the city angrily fought the first round of $60 million cuts for Chicago schools. Furor continues as the bankers demand another $120 million cut in the School Board's budget.



34 Mayor Byrne's $1.1 billion transit plan will get bankers from LaSalle St. to the new North Loop Hilton, but don't count on a ride to your job on the Southeast side.

KEEP STRONG...

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From The Editor

Friends,

In case you were wondering about the length of the magazine (48 pages) this month, the reason we shortened it was to save money. The choice was to come out less regularly or to cut the number of pages. We chose the second. Soon, we'll be letting you know how you can help make sure the magazine continues to come out.

But we don't think that we have had to sacrifice quality in shortening the length. In fact, I think that you will find this issue packed with information that you can use.

The newspapers continue to print news items about the cuts at County Hospital, but you almost have to turn to KEEP STRONG (p. 10) to see the pattern as well as get the full picture of what's happening to the hospital.

For too many years the LAPD has been nothing more than a terrorist army in the communities of that city. Now a movement is on to place them under the jurisdiction of a citizens' review board. (Page 14). People across the country will be watching what happens in Los Angeles, thinking about the problems that they have with random police violence.

Marc Zalkin

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EDITORIAL

Blowing Out Chicago's Municipal Unions

It may be a long struggle, but sooner or later, we'll all get to the bottom line of how this city is directed.

When we do we'll find two men with outstretched hands – one from the Continental Bank and one from the First Chicago Corporation (First National Bank of Chicago). They'll be standing there to represent the wealth and power of 25 of the largest corporations in the world, a dozen banks from New York to Chicago and the greatest economic and political pressure on this city.

The city survives on borrowed money. The two men standing on the bottom line can turn the money on and off almost at will. Because they are standing in for 40-45 others, the men must also answer to an even higher authority. What happens in and to Chicago in the next 5-25 years will be determined by this group of people. Who works and who doesn't, who gets educated, who gets health care and who stays in the city at all.

They have their reasons for wanting to reshape Chicago without most of us. Their main reason is they can't handle a hostile, unemployed labor force of a million or better.

Which brings us to the question of organized labor. Massive organization of working people could be a tremendous threat to the banks' plan to reshape Chicago. They could stop it or slow it down for years. When the organized workers are city workers, the threat is even more direct. But only 12,000 of the City of Chicago's 42,000 employees are unionized.

Starting in December with the strike of the transit workers, the mayor has been directed to reduce the bargaining power and influence of three of Chicago's municipal unions. She has no motive of her own.

Rather, she is carrying out a program that was written for her, by the boys at the bottom line. They do not intend to negotiate their plans with any union or group of unions. Bill Lee, chief of the Chicago Federation of Labor, knows that. He's been going along with their program for years, and he'd be perfectly content to sit back for the next 10 years and watch the bankers use the city to cut the labor movement here to shreds.

In their struggle for survival, the municipal unions have turned to the communities for support. But the people have been hesitant to rush behind them. The people are not sure their interests are identical, or even close to those of the firemen, and yet they oppose the city's union busting activities. For their part the firemen have never taken the time to integrate themselves into the lives and problems of the communities they work in.

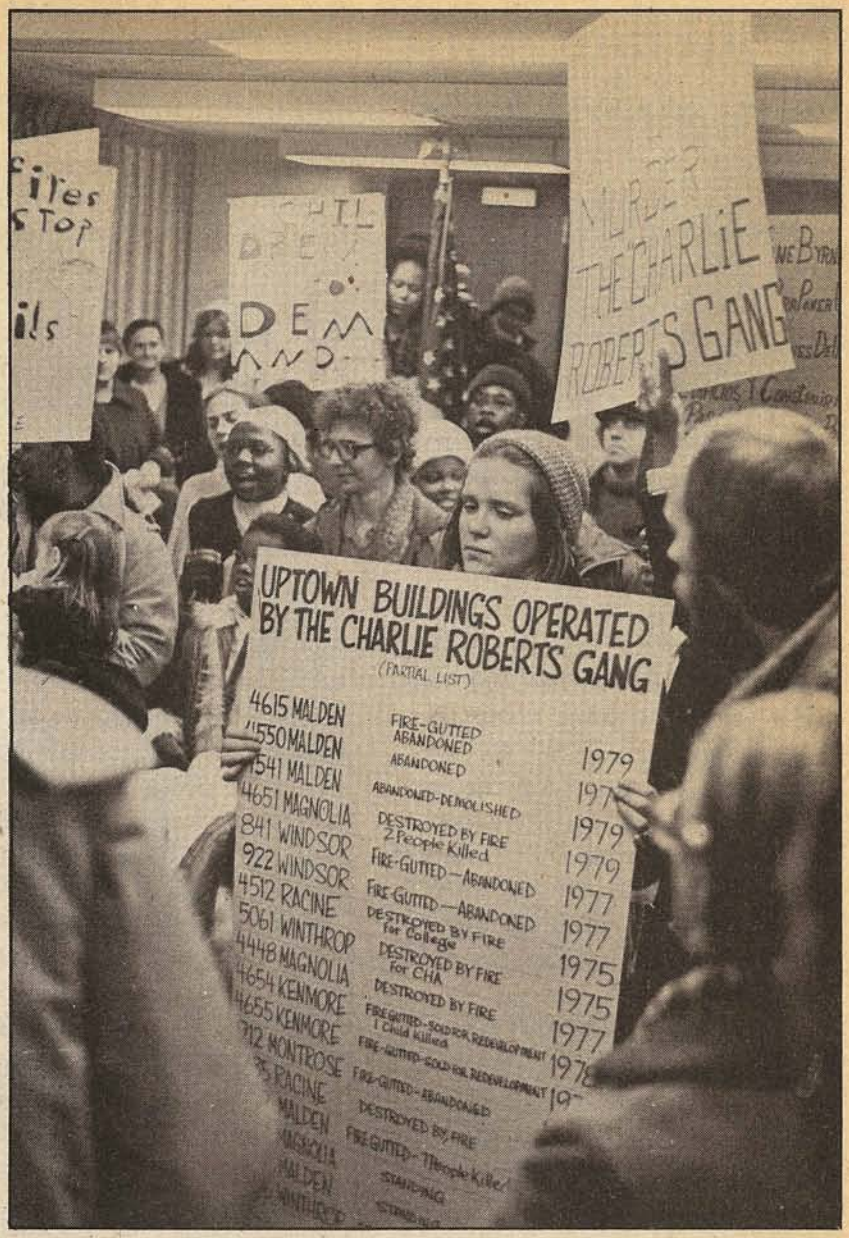
The January school crisis and the firemen's strike has shown us that 90 percent of the people in Chicago have no organized voice. The poor and working class communities that suffer harshly from the school cuts and the fires have been forced to act as observers.

But the people are the decisive factor in solving any problem in this city. They have been heard from before. We should expect to hear that voice again soon. And we must organize to make sure it happens.

We believe that the next several years will witness a tremendous assault on organized labor across this country. But the great majority of working people in this country and this city are not even organized now.

We've been feeling the squeeze of the master-plan for 20 years now. We welcome anybody to join the majority of people of Chicago, fighting the bankers' program point by point. □

Heart of Uptown—Front line fight to prevent fires



The firemen want their contract, the bankers don't want municipal unions, and the people wage a militant life and death struggle against the fires which threaten to displace and murder them.

Chicago's firefighters walked off the job in a strike against the city in mid-February. Many had seen the action coming for a long time and felt the strike was caused by the city's refusal to grant the union a written contract. The mayor's office did its best to conceal the heart of the issue in a series of official and unofficial statements, attempting to discredit the striking firemen.

A striking fireman told KEEP STRONG, "The reason the strike is not being settled is because of the mayor. We gave her two chances where we wouldn't go out on strike. We gave her our own plan where we'd man the firehouses. She turned it down, ignoring us, ignoring the citizens. Right now the central issue is amnesty and binding arbitration. There are a lot of things in the contract, things we already have and which we want to hold onto."

One year ago, Jane Byrne, running a one-horse campaign for mayor, promised the firemen that if she were elected, they would get a contract. In return for that commitment, they supported her with money and election workers against Michael Bilandic, an election she won by less than 2,000 votes. That was February 28, 1979. By February 28, 1980, it was clear that if Jane Byrne ever wanted to give the firemen a contract, the banks and bond brokers had her convinced that municipal unions were bad for business.

The closing of firehouses across the city carried the potential to devastate several communities

Front line fight to prevent fires

The striking union was fined

already under a general real estate attack. Chicago's rate of fires and death by fire ranks among the highest in the country. Yet the fire department is already undermanned. A key issue in the strike is the firemen's demand to put more men on the trucks, in line with other large cities. Several neighborhoods, targeted for redevelopment, braced for a wave of fires.

In Uptown the community had been on its toes since Christmas, and a post-Christmas arson spree that claimed 13 lives. By now, Uptown is infamous for the incidence of fires. Its firehouse at Wilson and Racine is the second busiest in the city. In the last 10 years, thousands of units of low-income housing have been destroyed directly by fire. When fire was not the immediate cause of the destruction, it was used frequently in the process of driving tenants from buildings that were on the market.

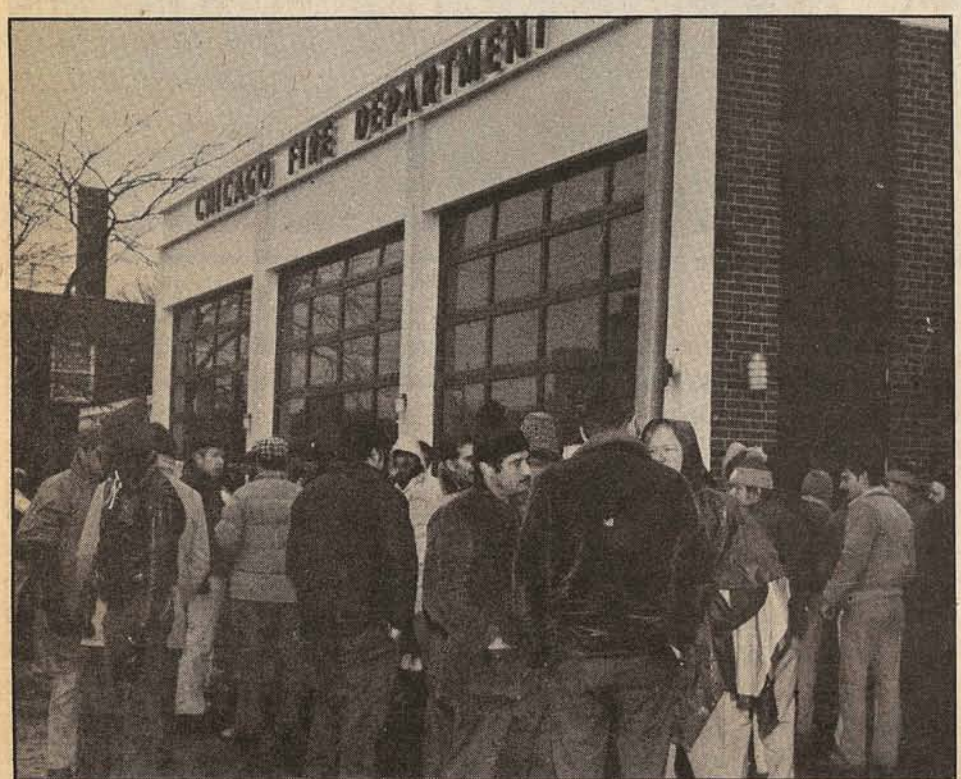
On February 13, a special meeting of the City Council's Police and Fire Committee was held at Truman College. A week before, ABC-TV had aired a report, on arson in Uptown, detailing the operation of an old enemy to the Uptown community – Charlie Roberts. Now the machine politicians, who had blamed fires on children and drunks for years, gathered at Truman College. Ignoring the issue of displacement, the principal cause of fire in Uptown, they read statements, made promises and offered "solutions" to the problem for the press.

But they would not have the day. More than 150 people from the neighborhood were also there. They were the experts on fire, on arson, on the negligence of the city and most importantly, on the city's development-displacement plan that acts as the main incendiary for the endless fires. They booed and hissed. They drowned the Axelrods and Marovitzes out. They made it clear that phony speeches from phony politicians tied to real estate developers could not be made in the names of the community.

In sworn testimony before the committee, KEEP STRONG editor Marc Zalkin, outlined the cooperation that existed between the city, political leaders, the Bank of Chicago and the Charlie Roberts operation. Zalkin named former 46th ward official Jerry Orbach as, "the one man in a position, corporation counsel in building court, to shut the Roberts operation down." But in his role as secretary of the 46th ward regular Democratic organization, Orbach was well aware of large donations to the regular organization by Roberts' insurance adjuster, Lawrence Warner.

Zalkin charged that Orbach used his position in building court to assist the Roberts operation. "I believe you would find the average length of time each of these buildings was in code compliance court was five or more years continuously...in spite of this, I am confident that you will not find a single fine levied against those operators or a single punitive action taken against them by the court over the last ten years."

Named as having a role in the Roberts operation was the Bank of Chicago. The bank held mortgages scheduled to be foreclosed at both 5406 N. Winthrop and 4530 N. Malden, only days after the fires that killed 13 in those buildings. "It



Striking Chicago firemen locked out of Wilson-Racine fire station after the union agreed to go back to work.

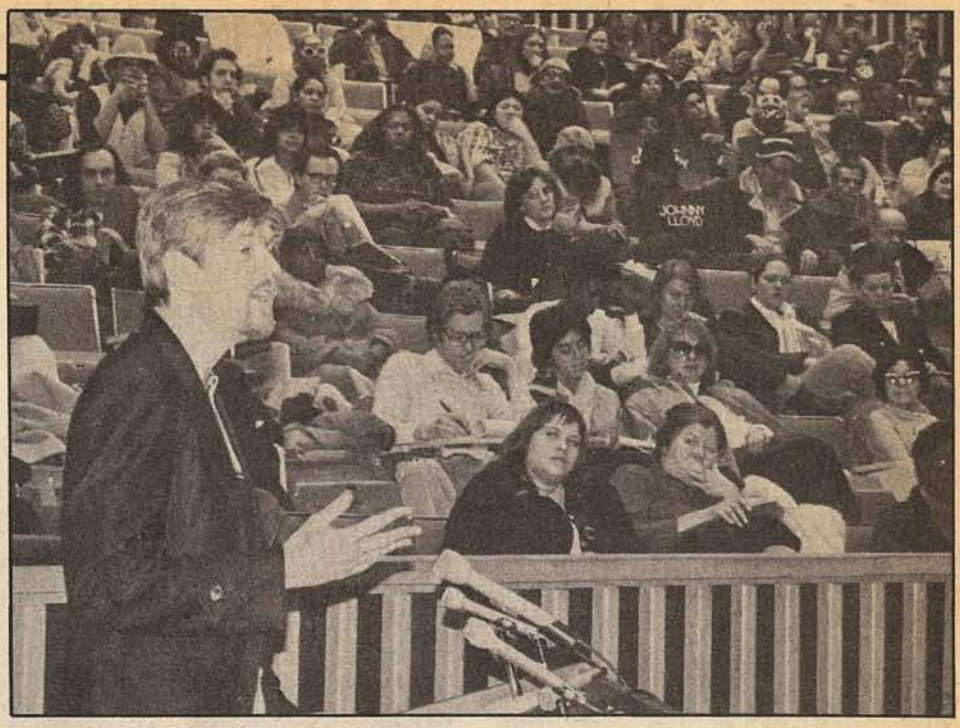
$40,000 a day.

was this institution that packaged the Truman Square project which led directly to the purchase of the Kenmore-Leland buildings from Roberts, by real estate developer Jon Starr," Zalkin pointed out.

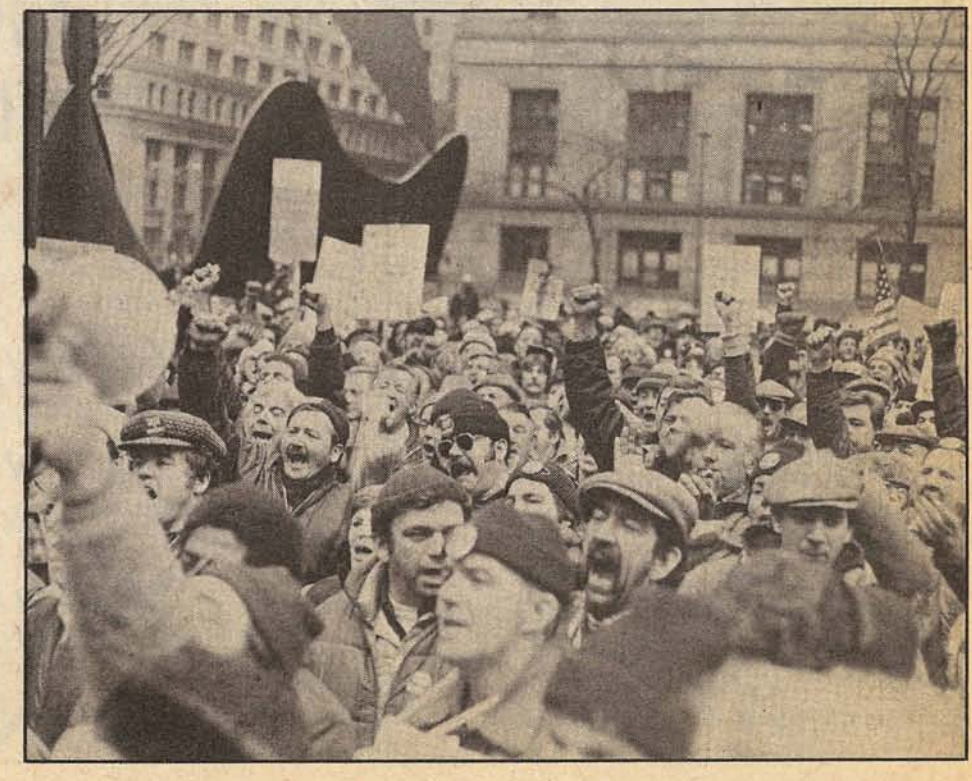
Also brought to light was the city's purchase of two buildings from Roberts before 1976. The Chicago Housing Authority purchased the corner of Winthrop and Winona after a series of fires and the city college system bought the land at 4512 N. Racine for construction of its "skills center." "We now see these transactions as 'good faith' on the part of the city that it would subsidize Roberts until the private demand for his real estate increased," the editor concluded.

From the fight against arson, the community moved into the fight to prevent fires, quickly but not without bitterness. Cecil Hardy, a resident of Uptown for 29 years, describes the situation the community faced, "I think it's a shame the way both sides are doing. But it's a worse shame that Mayor Byrne won't sit down and agree with the firemen. Both sides are off, but I don't think either side recognizes the danger that people in this community are in. Just look how many fires we had in the last two years. Look at how many people died. Look, if we had another fire like the Ellis Hotel, look what would happen. The whole damn thing would burn up, the people and all. I can't see it myself."

The city responded to the firemen's strike with several moves that revealed the real aim to bust the union. The first was a lockout. Next, the city withdrew from negotiations, refusing to meet with firefighter union representatives in



Hundreds of Uptown residents – the real experts on arson – hear Slim Coleman testify at city council hearings at Truman College. Speakers charged corporation counsel Jerry Orbach (left) and slumlord Charlie Roberts (right) as key figures in arson-for-profit ring. Below: More than 3,500 striking firemen rally at Daley Center to demand the contract Mayor Byrne promised last year at election time.



Front line fight to prevent fires

The HOUC Fire Patrol stopped s

front of a federal mediator. Union President Frank Muscare went to jail. The union and its leadership were fined a total of $40 thousand a day for every day the strike continued.

By the end of February, the city was telling the press that large numbers of firemen were ignoring the strike and returning to work. A union rally of 3,500 on February 23 and polls taken at fire stations across the city, dispelled that as only myth. On February 28, fire Commissioner Albrecht, moving his lips as LaSalle Street pulled the strings, offered a general amnesty to any fireman who returned to work. Two men returned. But this was front street. Now, the city was saying something it had denied before. "You can have a union if you want. But your union can't get you a contract. If some people have to die, while we prove that to you, too bad."

In Uptown the response was militant, the action was organized and the tone was expressed by area merchant Ted Cohen:

"Originally, Byrne promised them a contract when she was running for mayor, and she kept putting it off, putting it off. They finally got fed up with her bull. They saw it worked for the teachers so fast, they decided to see if it worked for the firemen that fast. I think it's really a shame that they still don't have a contract, regardless of the fact that they are the highest paid firemen in the country. They still were promised something and they deserve to get what they were promised. I really don't blame them for staying out on strike until they get the contract. I put the blame in Mayor Byrne's lap now. She is the one who can stop it."

Friday morning, February 22, 200 residents of Uptown invaded the mayor's office to let her know that they wanted the strike settled and the firemen to have a contract.

Supporting the union against an organized attempt to break it was important, but stopping the neighborhood from burning was just as important. In the wake of the complete failure of the city to deliver fire protection to Uptown, the Heart of Uptown Coalition (HOUC) organized its own

Uptown People's Law Center
Divorce Clinic
1220 W. Wilson

Simple uncontested divorces for people who qualify are being handled for $100 (can be paid over time).

For more information:
Contact Ruth St. John, 769-1411

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Division y Western Ave.
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7:30 p.m.
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One of Puerto Rico's most popular groups, these eight young musicians combine folk & contemporary music critics have hailed as the best in Latin America today.
Call 235-8080

UPTOWN GOES DOWNTOWN

We are giving the city one last chance to stop the destruction of our community and the displacement of our people. All of us are going downtown to deliver the message.

Friday, March 14

MEET:

1222 W. Wilson Ave.

8:30 a.m.

For more information, call:
The Heart Of Uptown Coalition — 769-2085

We Shall NOT Be Moved!

small fires from turning into big ones.

Emergency Fire Patrol. Karen Sandler, of the Heart of Uptown Coalition, explained how the fire patrol was organized, "When the firemen went on strike on Thursday, February 14, the Coalition set up the fire emergency teams. The purpose was to try to organize the people in the community about the fact that our survival depends on fire prevention, especially at a time when the community had virtually no fire protection.

"The first thing we did was set up an all-night fire patrol to patrol the entire Heart of Uptown area from 9 p.m. until sunrise. We have a communications network with a CB radio in each car and a home base in our headquarters. We also have a truck that we borrowed, equipped with blankets, buckets, ladders and tools.

"Since the strike began, there have been at least 8 fires that we have gone to. In all cases we arrived before the fire department, and in some cases, were able to put out or control the fire until the fire truck arrived from Grace and Damen."

Lil Tus

Above: Fire Dept. paramedic shows lifesaving techniques to fire patrol members. Right: HOUC fire patrol assists firemen in putting out local fire.

More on Fire Patrol — See Page 8.

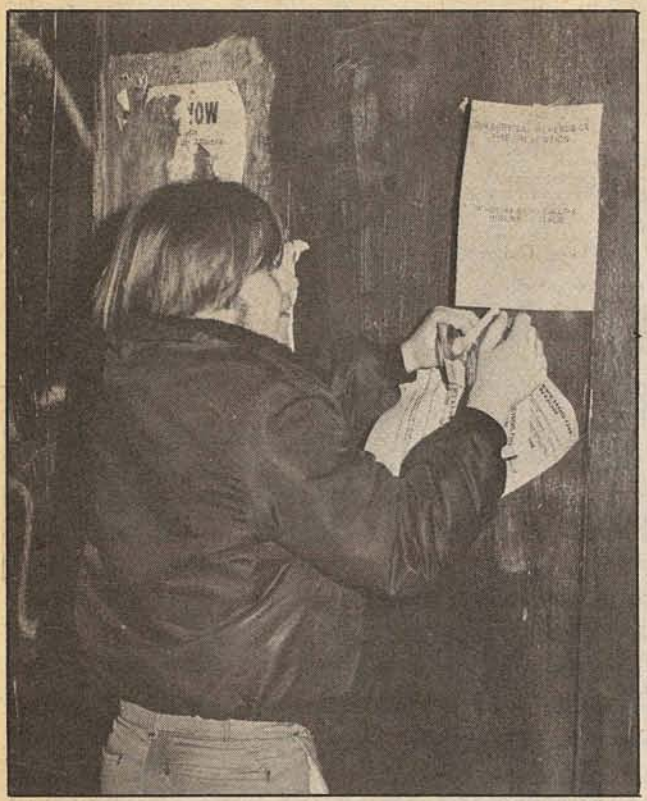
Striking firemen responded to the community's support and respected the fire prevention program. Paramedics from the Wilson Avenue firehouse gave lessons, on lifesaving techniques, to patrol members at the Heart of Uptown headquarters. "I think it's good that the communty gets involved like that. Something like that might save some lives, stop a small fire from turning into a big fire, and a lot of people getting hurt," remarked one striking fireman.

Uptown is one of several neighborhoods where the city has joined private developers in a land rush that has already forced thousands from the community. Those that are left proved their determination to stay and fight in February.

Ted Cohen didn't miss the point, "I've heard that they have stopped sometehing like 15 fires from developing into something real big. All these land developers say that these people don't have any pride in their own neighborhood. Well, something like that just proves it right there. They do. The fire patrol really proves that there are people in the community who really do care about what happens here."

Cecil Hardy never doubted the people for a minute. "The city is robbing the poorer class of people and the rich ones are laughing at them. Myself, in my building and in other buildings, when I'm up here at 12, 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning, I watch this whole neighborhood. If Mayor Byrne and the firemen don't want to get together and settle the damn strike like people are supposed to, then I think the people should take the firehouse over and run it themselves. We're paying for it. We might as well get some use out of it."□

— HOUC Fire Patrol —



Heart of Uptown Coalition (HOUC) Emergency Fire Patrol member posts notice telling people what to do in case of fire. Right: HOUC Emergency Fire Patrol truck equipped with blankets, buckets, ladders and tools — "The patrol really proved that there are people in the community who really do care about what happens here."

During the firefighters' strike in Chicago last month, Uptown residents organized the Heart of Uptown (HOUC) Emergency Fire Patrol to spot fires, put them out and assist fire victims.

Many of the patrol workers were young people from Uptown. When the strike began they knew they had to do something to protect the lives of people in the community. But as the strike continued, they realized that Mayor Byrne's refusal to settle the strike was another part of the city's plan to cut off services and displace poor people.

At the February 24 monthly HOUC meeting, Patty Johnson, Jimmy Napier and Lester Graham explained how the HOUC Fire Patrol worked and why the community must continue to be self-reliant.

Patty Johnson

Patty Johnson, 16, points out how the city's refusal to settle the strike is part of the city's "Masterplan" to drive poor people from communities like Uptown, and that the only way to survive is to fight back.

"Me, myself, I'm proud of the fact that some people are starting to care about what's going on around their home.

"If we don't start getting involved, our home is going to be taken away from us through fire, the masterplan, or something of the sort.

"The people in Uptown and other low-income neighborhoods are being deprived of their fire protection, health care, job opportunities, and education.

"If we don't fight back, who will? No one else cares. The land developers don't want us here; the city officials don't want us here. But we're still trying to save it because it's the only thing we've got.

"The city officials are just giving us enough of whatever it is we need at the time to keep us quiet. They don't care, they just want to keep us

satisfied well enough to look like they're doing something for people in low-income neighborhoods, long enough to get votes.

"Now Jimmy Napier is going to explain one of the ways the people of Uptown are starting to fight back."

Jimmy Napier

Jimmy Napier describes the methods the people used to organize the emergency fire patrol.

"We all know what's going on around here; we live here. What it might look like to an outsider is that the city is helping us. But we know that the city officials helping us is a myth. Bad housing, lack of fire protection, inadequate education, no job opportunities are a reality.

"We have to join forces in order to change our situation. When the firemen's strike started, we realized we had two options: sit by and watch Uptown burn, or do something about it. We chose the latter because we realized that we only had ourselves to rely on. People from the community got together and formed the HOUC Fire Emergency Team. We all sat down and thought it out. We borrowed some cars and sent out patrols throughout the Heart of Uptown area. We wanted to be in contact with the patrol cars so we set up a communications system with a CB in each car, and a home base at 1222 W. Wilson. The main idea of the patrols was to let it be known to people that we were out watching our neighborhood and that we were watching for someone who may start a fire. The other purpose of the patrols was to put out a fire if we spotted one.

"We established a hotline number to our headquarters in case of a fire that is reported through the hotline, or our patrol cars; we have a truck that is equipped with blankets, buckets of water, ladders and tools.

"We also have a crew of people assigned to the office all night who function as watchers from the windows, a standby crew for the truck, and a cooking and clean-up crew.

"I've learned one thing through this period – that we really do have someone to rely on – *ourselves!*"

Lester Graham

Lester Graham, 20, explains the training HOUC patrol members received and what the patrol needs to keep going.

"All of you belong to the Heart of Uptown Coalition; if not, you can join by seeing one of the members at the end of the meeting. A lot of you out there may think that we don't know what we are doing and we may not, but we are trying.

"How I feel about the strike – I believe that the mayor should give them (the firemen) what they want so I can go back to working and sleeping regularly.

"We learned, CPR, ABC – Airway, breathing, circulation. We learned more about people in the community and how to communicate with them. We learned how to stay calm in case of emergency.

"What we need are more volunteers for window watching, more volunteers for patrols, for cars and CBs, donations for gas and expenses. If you know anyone with a CB, please tell them to leave channel 18 open for fire emergency use only."□

Heart Of Uptown Coalition (HOUC) Emergency Fire Patrol members meet for nightly briefing. The all-night teams patrol the entire Heart of Uptown from 9 p.m. until sunrise – "It proves there are people in the community who really do care about what happens here."

Media Coalition Hits WNET-TV's Rejection Of Four Films

NEW YORK—The Coalition to Make Public Television Public — including community groups and filmmakers across the country — is protesting WNET-TV's (Channel 13) refusal to show four documentary films, selected by a review panel, on the program "Independent Focus." The station's refusal "to broadcast the four films on public television demonstrates how communities have been consistently denied access to significant programming by local stations," the Coalition states.

The four films rejected by Channel 13, New York's public TV station, include "The Maternity Center Story," a film about the fight for community control of quality health care for poor women; "Finally Got the News," a documentary about the League of Revolutionary Black Workers in Detroit; "O Povo Organizado," which depicts the struggle for independence in Mozambique and "A Comedy in Six Unnatural Acts," a lesbian satire.

WNET's "Independent Focus" began three years ago as the station's program to show films by independent, non-commercial filmmakers. Last fall, a "peer review panel," made up of community and minority representatives, chose 28 films for showing on the Channel 13 show. But WNET executives rejected the four. According to station executive Liz Oliver, some films were "outdated." Others were rejected without comment or were called "not objective."

According to Gordon Quinn, a Chicago filmmaker with Kartemquin, the group which made "The Chicago Maternity Story" (1975), the four films were axed "because they speak from the point of view of oppressed people." The Chicago film shows the dramatic story of how Black and poor women fought to keep the maternity center open when plans were announced to replace it with the more modern, expensive Prentice Women's Hospital. The center opened in 1898 to provide low-cost home delivery to thousands of poor Chicago mothers. One scene shows an angry confrontation between the Black, Latino and poor White women who use the center and the Board of Directors. The center closed in 1974 but the fight for low-cost, quality health care continues. WNET charged that the "unseen narrator" — a woman who worked on staff at the maternity center — made "unsubstantiated comments."

Vicki Gholson, a member of the WNET review panel and the Black Producers' Association, rejects Oliver's charges that the films are "outdated." "Finally Got the News," for example, shows the fight of Black auto workers in Detroit during the '60s to get their own union. "I could get information from it to apply to what is happening today," Ms. Gholson told *In These Times*. "All Liz saw was that it was old — but to

"The Chicago Maternity Center Story" was one of four films WNET-TV refused to show on public television. "The films were axed because they speak from the view of oppressed people."

a larger community – particularly the Black community – it would have meaning."

Last month the Coalition met with WNET president John Iselin to present six demands for immediate action. Demands include a full financial breakdown of how public money (close to 50 percent of the station's budget) is being spent – particularly how much goes to salaries of minorities and women employed at WNET; full implementation of recommendations made by the Minority Task Force Report to the Corporation For Public Broadcasting and the Carnegie Commission; and broadcast of the four films on television during prime time – daytime or early evening hours.

Chicago media groups such as the Latino Committee on the Media, the Citizens Committee on the Media, and KEEP STRONG Magazine have joined the Coalition's protest of WNET's refusal to show the films. The groups are pressing for more people from minority and oppressed communities to be hired by public television in decision-making jobs – like programming.

Gordon Quinn told KEEP STRONG that Chicago faced a similar issue recently when Channel 11 (WTW) decided to show "Murder of Fred Hampton" at 12 midnight. "For ten years they never showed it on TV, when it was most relevant." Quinn says that the station has been bombarded with letters and phone calls demanding that the powerful documentary be shown again – but at prime time.□

Olive-Harvey Students Fight Cutback Of *Hampton-Clark News*

CHICAGO – Students at Olive-Harvey Community College scored a victory over "subtle censorship" after the circulation of their campus newspaper was slashed by the administration. The *Hampton-Clark News* published an article critical of the administrators and found their distribution cut from 5,000 to 2,000 copies. The article quoted a resigning administrator who felt that the city colleges central office exerted too much control over the individual city colleges.

Phillip Brown, faculty advisor for the newspaper, said that at first administrators claimed the cut was made because other college papers had circulations considerably less than school enrollment. "This was found to be not true," said Brown. Brown said he was called into the president's office where they discussed the issue of journalistic responsibility versus the need for a "positive image for the college in the community."

"The issue has been resolved for all practical purposes," says Brown and the circulation will be restored to 5,000 copies. "The students were upset at the harassment at first, but it has been a positive journalistic experience for them. They realize now how important it is to have a free student press."□

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Pritzker Family Cutting The Heart From County Hospital

CHICAGO – Working with the precision of a surgeon's knife, the Pritzker family has begun to direct the closing of Cook County Hospital. The Board of the Uptown People's Community Health Center, the newest of seven outreach clinics set up by the former Health and Hospitals Governing Commission (HHGC) of Cook County, has filed a federal lawsuit charging the County Board with breach of contract. The contract existed between the Board and the HHGC and was the basis of federal funding for the clinic. The County Board has chosen to ignore the contract and deny the Community Board any control of the clinic. The Community Board has chosen to settle the matter in a court of law.

At a meeting between representatives from the Community Board of the clinic and attorneys for the county in the first week of February, State's Attorney Julia Nowicki interrupted the discussion to take a call. A few moments later she entered the room again. She announced, "There's no sense in further discussion. President Dunne has informed our office (the state's attorney) that none of the clinics will be funded after March 1."

When Ms. Nowicki was asked if President Dunne was speaking for the entire County Board and if there had been some vote, she replied, "George Dunne is the president and speaks for the County Board."

Pressed for further details, Ms. Nowicki returned to the phone. When she came back this time, she explained, "There's the possibility that they (seven outreach clinics) may be funded 'til April 1."

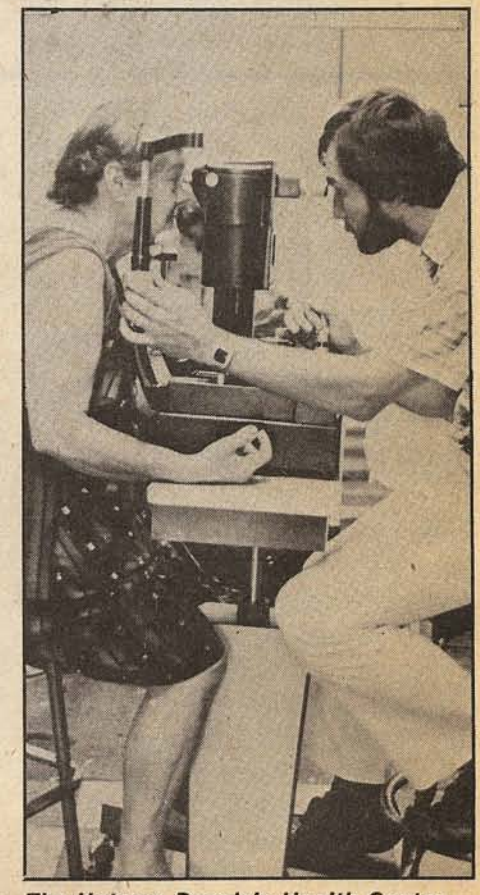
The bosses – including George Dunne – hired the Pritzkers to run County Hospital, cut it and close it down.

On February 14, President Dunne spoke for the County Board once again. Announcing an "order to stop routinely dispensing free drugs to outpatients," Dunne justified the new policy saying that in the past, the hospital failed to collect payments for people covered by insurance and medicaid. Hospital administrator Howard Silverman backed up Dunne. Silverman said the free drug policy had cost the hospital $2 million a year. Silverman failed to mention that drugs were given as part of treatment, and as such, were a highly reasonable function of the hospital, hardly a loss.

A guarantee that drugs would be administered free to hospital patients was written into the contract with the hospital's House Staff Association, representing 525 residents and student interns. Dunne dismissed the guarantee and the contract, suggesting the doctors should be left out of the billing decisions.

President Dunne spoke for the County Board one more time on February 16. Refusing to negotiate a new contract with the House Staff Association, Dunne was blunt, "There is no necessity for a contract. If they have a grievance, they can come and talk to me."

Linda Murray, president of the House Staff Association, reacted angrily. She told the *Sun-Times,* "We're going to fight it. We need a contract to protect our working conditions." Dunne was unmoved as he informed the county hospital's other union that they could



The Uptown People's Health Center – George Dunne and the Pritzkers want to shut it down.

not expect to renegotiate their contracts when they expire.

As previously reported in KEEP STRONG, the Cook County Board awarded the management of the hospital to Hyatt Medical Services in January, 1980. Hyatt Medical, part of the billion dollar empire controlled by Chicago's wealthy Pritzker family, proposed to do a "management survey" to identify so-called weaknesses in the management of the nation's largest public health institution.

The hospital had been a rat and scandal-infested trench until 1969 when the state legislature took it out of the hands of the Cook County Regular Democratic Organization and established an independent Health and Hospitals Governing Commission.

Throughout the 1970s, the Governing Commission improved the quality of health care at the hospital as well as the general maintenance of the institution. Seven community-based outreach clinics were established to deliver health care to medically underserved communities.

By the end of the 1970s, millions of poor and working people in Chicago relied on Cook County and its clinics for health care.

Paul Siegel (left), President of the Uptown People's Health Center Board and Uptown residents rally in federal court. The community demands a ruling forcing George Dunne (inset) and the County Board to fund the clinic through the end of its five-year contract.

By the end of the decade, the hospital and its clinics had become the most relied on health care provider for millions of poor and working people in Cook County and Chicago.

But the Governing Commission and its achievements were not viewed favorably by the County Board – the Democratic Party and its handful of pocket Republicans. Before the clock struck 1980, County Board President Dunne, dealing and cooperating with Mayor Jane Byrne and Governor Jim Thompson, had succeeded in getting the legislature to abolish the Health and Hospitals Governing Commission. Control of the hospital was restored to the hands of the political bosses. The bosses hired the Pritzkers to run it, cut it, and close it down.

They will get a fight. Over two dozen demonstrations, involving several thousand people, five years of organizing, 20 years of resistance and the will of a whole community, forced the county to put that clinic in Uptown. The people are used to fighting. They will fight again to make sure the clinic stays and serves the community.

The Uptown People's Health Center Community Board has won a temporary victory as this magazine goes to press, holding up the Dunne-Pritzker axe until at least June 30. The agreement gained in federal court from the County Board insures continued funding for the clinic for four more months while the community seeks a court ruling forcing the County to continue funding through the end of their five-year contract. Strong opposition is also expected throughout the city to other County Hospital cuts. □

Hyde Park Tenants Score Victory In Rent Strike Sparked By Woman's Death

CHICAGO—On March 5, 1979, 28 year-old Sandra Robinson died in her sleep. Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning was the cause of death, and the invisible, odorless fumes sent dozens of other residents in the 13-floor, 49-unit building at 5400 S. Harper, to nearby Billings Hospital's emergency room with nausea, vomiting and severe CO poisoning.

Ms. Robinson's death came barely two months after an assault and attempted rape of another resident in the building's elevator. The attack sparked a flurry of organizing among the tenants, but the CO poisoning which emptied most of the building, and the week-long shutdown of the faulty boiler, which caused the death, united the building's more than 100 tenants in shared anger. A series of events led to a rent strike.

Tenants charged Dalton Management that the building's janitor and manager never informed them that anything was wrong, even after a team of emergency room doctors came to the building on March 5. The doctors were alerted to the problem by two residents who had been admitted to the emergency room with similar symptoms. But no formal evacuation of the building was made.

During the following weeks, tenants accompanied Chicago Building Code inspectors throughout the apartments and attended housing court hearings on the building's conditions. Nearly 80 multiple building code violations were found in the building and the case went to criminal housing court.

Nancy Cleveland

Police evacuate building at 5400 S. Harper after tenant Sandra Robinson died from carbon monoxide posioning. A faulty boiler caused the gas leak and sparked a rent strike by more than 100 tenants.

In mid-April, the tenants presented Dalton Managment with a 12 page list of demands. The demands included certification from an outside firm that the building's boiler was safe; installation of smoke alarms and fire doors on each floor that worked; installation of a working intercom system; and increased security. Several pages detailed problems in particular apartments and the building as a whole.

The tenants came away frustrated from meetings with the management. They didn't come to negotiate," said Juan Loco, a tenant. "They just wanted to see if we were for real." The management tried "to settle" the case by offering money to tenants who were forced out of the building in early March when the boiler was shut off. Since many tenants had hotel bills, hospital expenses or dead plants to show for the week without heat, many were inclined to accept the offer as a settlement. "Of course, they never would have made the offer if they weren't aware we were thinking about striking," explained Tony Dunlap, one tenant negotiator.

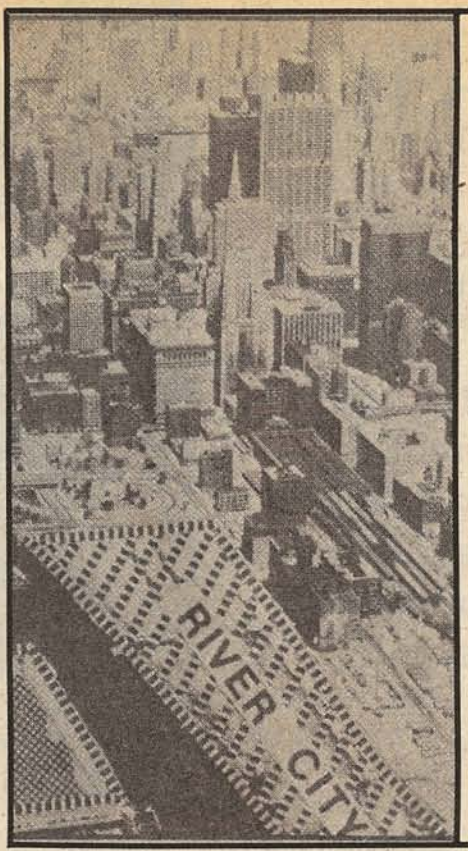
Determined to show management that no one, not even those people sickened by the gas would accept the money, the tenants association went door-to-door in the building explaining the deal. More than 60 people signed a petition rejecting the money offer as "insufficient" and authorizing the tenants association to represent them in bargaining with the management. On May 1, the tenants turned the petition over to Dalton's attorney, Matthew Walsh, at a Criminal Housing Court hearing. Tenants and supporters packed the courtroom and stood when the case was called. "It might not have had any effect on the case itself, but the judge took notice every time we came to court like that," one tenant observed.

Management refused to meet the tenants' demands. On May 5, 26 apartments began a rent strike. When tenants began to receive eviction notices in June, the tenants association quickly filed a lawsuit asking for damages for overpayment of rent, based on the building's condition and the fatal carbon monoxide incident.

A new management company, Realty and Mortgage Co. took over 5400 S. Harper in August and began tentative negotiations with the tenants. Court battles were expensive, lengthy and frustrating, but tenants organized a block club party to raise nearly $2,000 to defend those facing evictions.

In housing court the tenants were able to hold off the evictions. Their main defense rested on an Illinois Supreme Court decision – the warrant of habitability – which states that unless an apartment is fit to live in you do not have to pay rent. The faulty boiler and building violations clearly pointed to 5400 S. Harper as "uninhabitable."

On December 30, 1979 representatives of the 5400 S. Harper Tenants Association turned over more than $18,000 in withheld rents to a court-approved escrow account. By mid-February the Association had withheld more than $26,000 in rents, and intends to continue the rent strike until the management company complies with the demands outlined in the 20 page settlement. Nancy Cleveland, president of the 5400 S. Harper Tenants Association, explains why the rent strike has been successful, "We felt it was important that no single leader or small group be made easily identifiable to the management, so we sought building-wide support for everything we did, even if it was only the moral support of a name on a petition."□



RIVER CITY

Community leaders blasted the controversial $150 million River City project at the Chicago Plan Commission's hearing last month. The luxury housing project includes townhouses, penthouses and condominiums for 1,500 residents.

Art Vasquez, representing the Pilsen Housing and Business Alliance charged: "The same bankers who are financing River City are saying to the Board that it has to pay its own way. How do they feel the schools in River City should be financed? How can River City developers sit down with the Board of Education to plan schools for people who are not even in Chicago when people in Pilsen cannot get the Board to discuss schools which exist for real life children and parents?"

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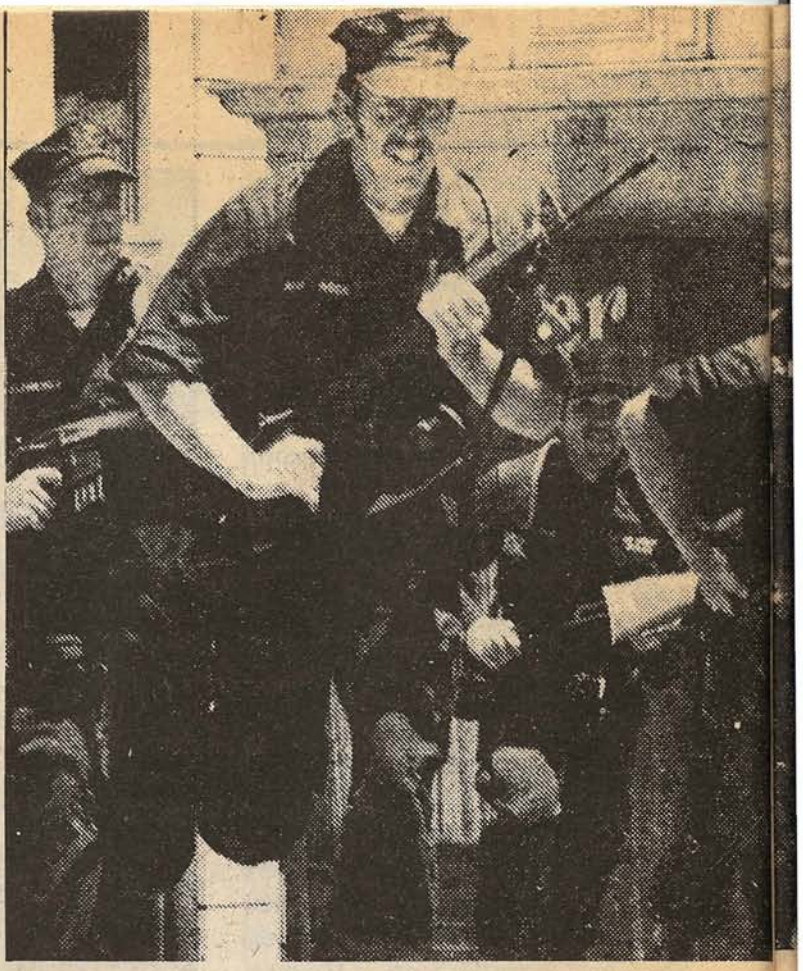
"It's Time to Halt the Reign of Terror"

When the City advised the Los Angeles Police Department to literally shred four and a half tons of citizens' complaints against the police, a judge called the scandal more terrible than Watergate.



LOS ANGELES — Between 1968 and 1977 it is estimated that more than 6,600 citizens were killed by police in the United States. More than 50 percent were non-White and nearly all were poor.

In January, 1979, Mrs. Eulia Love became another one of those victims when she was shot to death eight times in rapid fire by two Los Angeles police officers, in front of her children. Since her brutal murder last January, 30 people in Los Angeles have been killed by the police, but not a single officer has been charged. More than 110 citizens have died at the hands of the notorious Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) since 1975, yet not one single officer has been indicted.

On January 5, one year after Mrs. Love's death, the Coalition for a Citizens Review Board held a rally to launch their campaign for a citizen elected police review board. They need 116,000 signatures to put an ordinance before the voters in the November, 1980 election. The ordinance would amend the city charter by creating an elected police review board and special city prosecutor. The board will have power to investigate police abuse and fire officers.

The creation of a police review board has been an issue in Los Angeles since an incident of police brutality sparked the Watts rebellion in 1965. Mark Ridley-Thomas, co-chairman of the Coalition which includes more than 60 organizations, explains why Los Angeles needs the review board now: "In this city police brutality, racism and other abuses are escalating. There is a belief in many communities, not just Black and Brown communities, that there is no place to get justice when abused by the police. Some fear if they do, they'll just be further abused by the police. The bottom line is that there is presently no structure to review and remedy police abuse. The police investigate themselves."

Eulia Love's murder by the LAPD is the most recently publicized police killing. Other victims of unjustifiable police shootings include:

1976: Barry Evans — community activist, shot in the back
Anthony Brown — mental patient, shot on the steps of his house and allowed to bleed to death;

1977: Ron Burkholder — shot to death in the nude while standing with his arms raised;

1978: Reyes Martinez — Beaten to death by the police while in custody;

1979: Bob Trivis and Ray Galante — two gay men shot to death in Hollywood.

Critics of the LAPD charge that the investigation into Eulia Love's death was nothing but a "white-

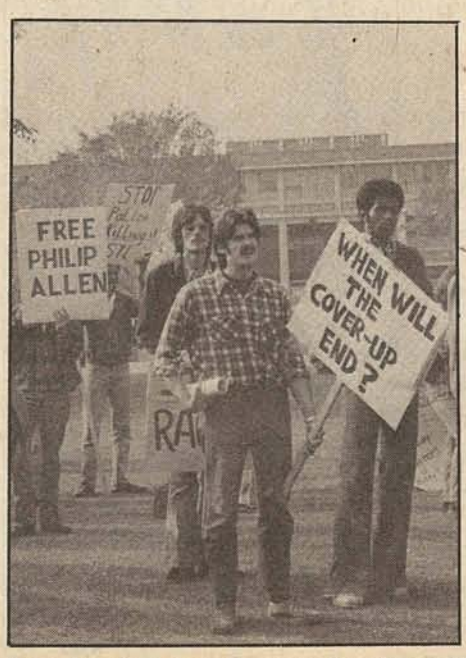
wash." The first report, issued by the "blue-ribbon" Police Commission stated that officers spent at least seven minutes trying to persuade Mrs. Love to drop a boning knife police say she hurled at them. Nine months later, after a storm of public protest, a second report — this time with the facts — was released. Mrs. Love died two to three minutes after the police arrived on the scene. The report concluded: "The actions taken violated the policies of the department. But it's too late to discipline the officers." When the second report appeared, LAPD Chief Gates refused to resign. He made a videotape denouncing the "liberal" commission and declared there was a conspiracy to destroy the police department. Gates went so far as to say that police officers should be paid overtime to insure that his "troops" watch the videotape.

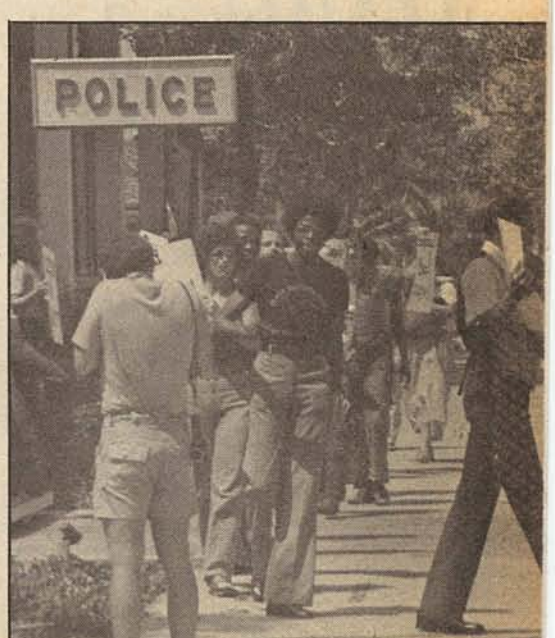
Investigations into police misconduct are carried out by the Police Commission in a "cozy" relationship with the LAPD, the district attorney and the city attorney. The Commission is nothing more than a "rubber stamp" for the mayor. The mayor appoints five members — they must be "distinguished citizens" according to guidelines — who meet weekly and get paid $10 for each meeting they attend. "The problem is that these are not the kinds of citizens who are victimized by police abuse," Ridley-Thomas explains. "The victims are disproportionately poor, especially Black or Brown."

Since 1974 there have been two major scandals which attempted to cover-up police misconduct in the LAPD. In 1974 the LAPD destroyed more than 2 million police intelligence files which had been collected on the activities of many lawful community groups. Then, in 1976, acting on the advice of the Los Angeles city attorney, the LAPD literally "shredded" more than four-and-a-half tons of complaints which included charges that citizens had been assaulted by police officers. Municipal Court Judge George Trammell called the "shredding incident a more terrible scandal than Watergate...a scandal that goes to the very heart of our system." As the "facts" of the shredding unfolded, both high-ranking police and city officials were involved. One 1975 memo from Internal Affairs Division Chief Thomas McTighe explained the reason for destroying the documents: "Complaints have an adverse effect on the morale of the police officers...timely destruction of the investigation reports would be desirable and beneficial." The "shredding" scandal has created such public outrage that groups are calling for a grand jury investigation.

While other major cities including New York, Portland and Washington, D.C. have police review boards, the proposed citizen review board in Los Angeles would be the strongest in the country. It would have:

- 15 elected, full-time, paid members, one from each city council district;
- full investigative staff with authority to read all police reports





Los Angeles march against police killings — more than 60 groups support the campaign to put a citizen elected police review board on the ballot in November.

"Reign of Terror"

- full subpoena power;
- a yearly budget of $2 million;
- a special, elected, *independent* city prosecutor with power to prosecute police officers in misdemeanor cases.

The proposed police review board would have power to investigate police abuse in more than 15 areas. In its second report on the Love shooting, the Police Commission suggested some "mini-reforms" in the investigation of police misconduct – but it only applied to actual police killings or incidents where the police inflict great bodily injury. The Coalition insists, however, that the majority of citizens are abused by the police more frequently by racial and sexual slurs; threats and rough treatment; tampered evidence and false testimony by police officers.

"Who reviews these complaints?" Police Commission President Reinhardt has even publicly stated that "The Commission shouldn't take an interest in these day-to-day abuses."

More than 110 citizens have been shot by Los Angeles police since 1975 – but not a single officer has been indicted.

Under the Coalition's proposal these complaints would routinely be heard and reviewed by the citizens elected to the review board.

To make sure the police review board does not become another city bureaucracy – out-of-touch with the people – the ordinance requires that regular assemblies be held when the elected members meet with people in their districts. Also, complaints of police abuse could be filed by any citizen at any of the 15 city council district offices. Currently, a complaint must be filed downtown at police headquarters.

One area the new police review board will tightly monitor is the Public Disorder Intelligence Division (PDID). In 1975 the LAPD had targeted more than 200 groups for surveillance, and the most recent incident of police spying involved LAPD officer Cheryl Bell who infiltrated the anti-nuclear movement to become president of the Committee On Nuclear Information at Cal State, Los Angeles.

The Coalition for a Citizens Police Review Board expects the opposition, mainly the *Los Angeles Times*, the LAPD, and the Police Protection League (representing the officers) to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to disqualify their petitions and defeat the proposal in November. But the Coalition is determined to put a "halt to the reign of terror" by the LAPD. They see the door-to-door petition drive as a "first step in building a broad-based movement...toward bringing the police under community control."

Even if the Coalition wins in November, the fight is not finished. Jeff Cohen, a researcher for the campaign, explains the next steps: "Hopefully, the Coalition will stay intact to run a slate of candidates for 15 review board seats. The Police Protection League will be giving as much money to its chosen candidates as they have to the city council – we need a few strong and concerned members to make the review board successful."□

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The Marion Brothers: Eight Years Of Struggle

by Scott W. Meyers

"This is to inform you that we have begun a general work stoppage as a result of the tyrannical policies pursued by the new Control Unit Manager. The *whole* Marion population is striking at this very moment, January 10th, 1980. Pass the word to the media and to the community. You are the first to know."

So read a recent letter to the National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers from a prisoner activist in the Marion, Illinois Federal Prison. By the time the letter arrived, the work stoppage was in its second day, and a hunger strike had begun in one of the prison's notorious segregation units. Only one prisoner had been punished at that point because the entire population had refused to work, making it impossible for officials to identify so-called leaders. But in segregation, "just being there" was enough punishment. Official confiscation of reading material, radios, tobacco and shampoo, along with longer and longer periods of solitary confinement was the spark that had ignited the prison-wide protest in the first place.

Not that this chain of events is anything new to the maximum-security prison in the United States — the replacement for notorious Alcatraz Island in the early '60s. Marion has more than lived up to the reputation of its predecessor. It has taken isolation, discipline and mental torture methods to new and frightening levels, while at the same time turning the overall purpose of the penal system toward total control and even incapacitation of some members of what is seen as a large, growing, quasi-permanent prisoner population.

The entire prison is a monument to modern, technological penology in the United States and Western Europe. Its electronic fences, topped with Vietnam War-era razor wire, its anti-helicopter net guns, along with its fishbowl-like cellblocks and its plexiglass sensory-deprivation cells — all of these innovations and more make Marion the experimental model for a "behavior control" penology that is spreading through American prisons.

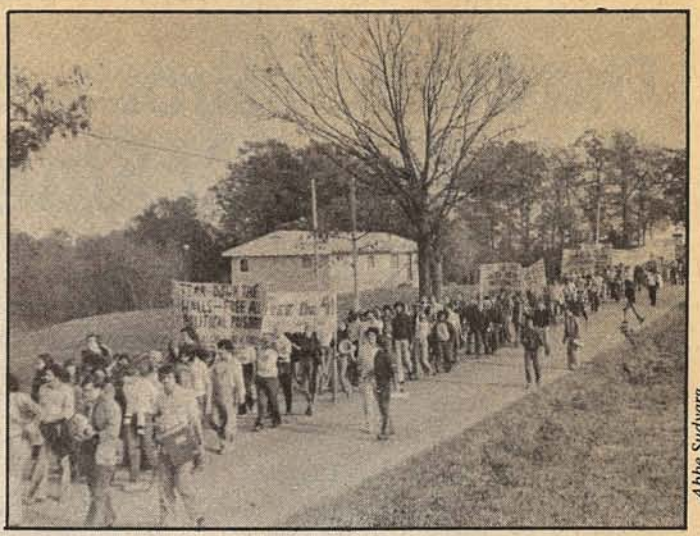
But according to a federal prison official, it is not so much Marion as a whole, but its Long-term Control Unit that "forms the foundation of the entire prison system." For it is to the Control Unit's four solitary confinement cellblocks that prisoners are sent when they protest or resist poor and deteriorating conditions in any of the nation's federal prisons and many state prisons too, not to mention the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. (Raphael Miranda was once a control unit prisoner. Leonard Peltier will probably be sent there soon.)

In the Control Unit, prisoners are kept in poorly lit 6x8 cells for twenty-three and a half hours per day for indefinite periods of time. Because the prison system is racist, more of the men in the Control Unit are Black, Hispanic or Native American. The prison officials, knowing that these Third World prisoners are potentially the greatest threat to their tyrannical rule, punish them more severely than white prisoners when they protest or even disobey an order. And they watch them closely too. In the Control Unit, behavior patterns and attitudes of the prisoners are con-

Abbe Sudvarg

More than 400 marchers gathered in Chicago last November to demonstrate their support for the Marion Brothers and the Pontiac Brothers.

Abbe Sudvarg



Abbe Sudvarg

After their inspection of Marion last November, a religious delegation (above, left) called for Congressional hearings on conditions at the federal prison. Right: More than 300 people marched to Marion in October, 1977 to protest the "infamous" control unit where mainly Black, Latino and Native American prisoners suffer brutal treatment.

stantly recorded in guards' log books. Eavesdropping is done via loudspeakers that also contain microphones. Television cameras are prevalent throughout the prison.

There has been an eight year struggle to close down this 1984-like prison. That struggle has been led from the beggining by the prisoners, who have held hunger strikes and work stoppages and carried on protracted battles in the courts to close the Control Unit. Some have been in the unit three and four different times since the unit was opened in 1972. Hiller "Red" Hayes was in the longest – five and a half years before dying of a heart attack in 1977.

The Marion Brothers have been assisted on the outside by lawyers from the Peoples' Law Office in Chicago and by the National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers, a five-year old organization that is spearheading a national campaign to close the Control Unit. Just days ago the lawyers went into federal appeals court to argue the Bono vs. Saxbe case, a five-year old class action suit that calls for the Control Unit's immediate closing. A victory for the Marion Brothers in the suit would set a precedent for prisoners' rights throughout the country and curtail the control unit trend.

With electronic fences, topped with razor wire, Marion is the model for "behavior control" in U.S. prisons.

The National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers (NCSMB) has concentrated on building public support for the brothers. Numerous marches and rallies, including a sit-in at a Bureau of Prisons (BOP) office last year have been organized. The committee forced the BOP to let a national religious delegation, including two Roman Catholic Bishops, inspect the prison last November. The delegation called for open Congressional hearings following their visit. The NCSMB is organizing support for those hearings and has announced plans for a Chicago to Marion "Walk for Justice" in September, ending in a mass rally outside the prison. (Marion is about 40 miles south of Chicago in southern Illinois.)

The fight to close this unit is crucial to the overall anti-repression struggles of the 1980s. Control units are the backbones of the new penal systems that are being designed and built to hold more and more poor and Third World people. Control units are now being built in new federal prisons in Alabama and New York. Two are planned for Arizona and New Mexico. An entire control unit complex is located on Michigan's upper peninsula near Marquette. They are all modeled after Marion, so that a victory for the Marion Brothers could start a trend toward liberation instead of the trend toward control and repression we see now. □

Scott Meyers is Co-ordinator of the National Committee to support the Marion Brothers.

To request information or make a contribution contact:
National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers
4556 A Oakland
St. Louis, Missouri 63110
314/533-2234

Guatemala: a terrorist government against the people

GUATEMALA – The Guatemalan people are suffering the bloodiest repression in their history. The military dictatorship headed by General Lucas Garcia engages daily in torture, crime, persecution, and threats, forcing thousands of citizens into exile. The police and army have been converted into bully gangs that terrorize the people, murdering more than 4,000 Guatemalans in the last 18 months.

In Guatemala social injustice is explosive. The government's repression is produced within a framework of great economic inequality, as shown by the following statistics:

- 2.1 percent of the wealthy agricultural landowners own 62 percent of the arable land.
- 5 percent of the people collect 34.5 percent of the national income.
- The average salary of farmers is 80 cents day.
- Only 7 percent of the people are protected by social security.
- 20 percent of the work force are unemployed while 52 percent are underemployed.
- The mortality rate is 16 percent, the highest in the hemisphere.
- In the urban areas there is one doctor for every 3,600 people, while in the rural areas there is only one for every 23,000 people.
- 75 percent of the children under five years suffer from malnutrition.
- 63 percent of the population is illiterate.
- More than half of the Guatemalans are Indians living under poverty and exploitation.

It's curious. Guatemala occupies a privileged place among the countries where human rights are most systematically violated. The government of this Central American country of six million inhabitants boasts that there are no political prisoners. The truth of this characteristic makes the wave of violence in Guatemala more dramatic. The fact is that political opponents and leaders in the fight against injustice are assassinated without mercy.

The dictatorship's fascist character was evident to the world, when the Guatemalan police, last January 31, machine-gunned and burned alive 32 Indian peasants who were peacefully occupying Spain's embassy. Despite the fact that ex-Guatemalan functionaries, the ambassador and administrative personnel were known to be in the embassy, the police invaded the building, firing their machine guns and throwing fire bombs. Thirty-nine people died in the attack.

Guatemala – a country of bloody repression and great economic suffering – 75 percent of the children under five have malnutrition and in the countryside there is only one doctor for every 23,000 people.

Guatemala

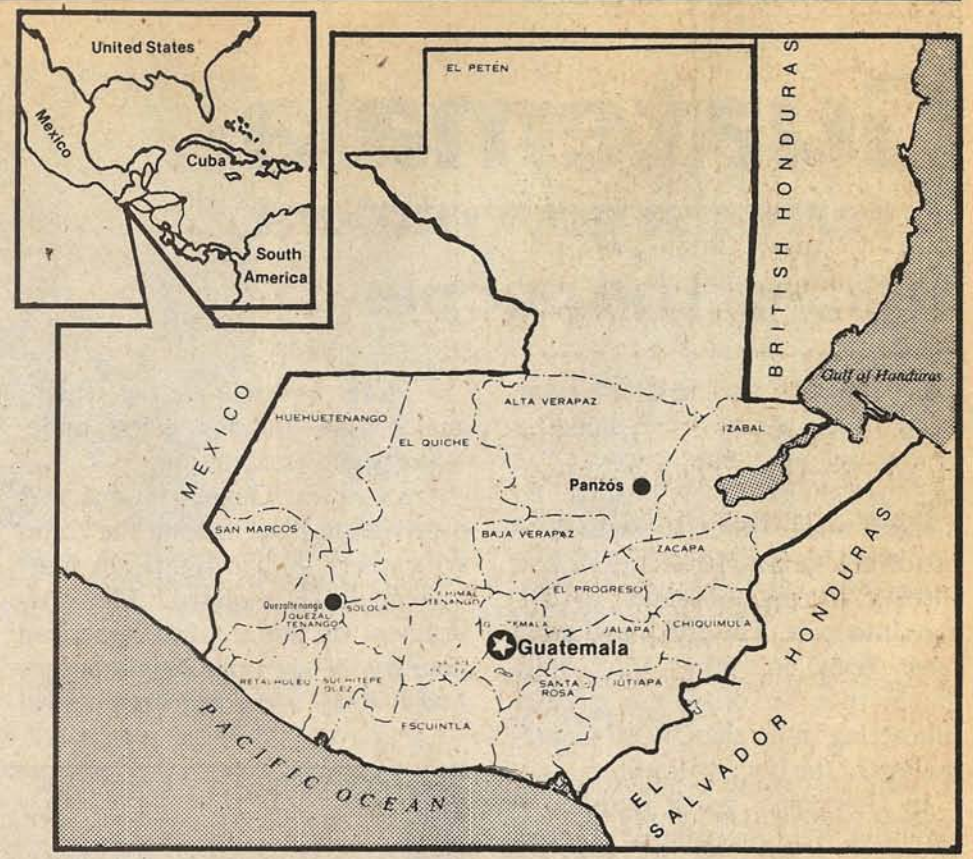
The government's criminal behavior reached its peak when the only Indian survivor – taken to a private hospital at the Spanish Ambassador's request – was kidnapped and murdered by gunshot. His corpse was thrown in front of the National Autonomous University of San Carlos, an institution that the government pretends is off-limits to the military. The next day, the dictatorship's terrorist gangs attacked the massive Indian burial, killing a student leader and a union leader.

The Indians represented thousands of families from the country's northwestern region. They were asking the government to investigate the murders, kidnappings, disappearances, rapes, home and harvest fires, and many more abuses that army troops have carried out against the peasant population. The countryside's great impoverished and exploited masses signify a revolutionary potential for social change in Guatemala. The dictatorship, fearful of the Indians' growing awakening, has undertaken the bloodiest repression.

In May, 1978, 150 Indians from Panzos, Alta Verapaz, were murdered by army troops whose generals own immense land zones in the country's northwestern region.

In spite of the dictatorship's genocide, Guatemalans find themselves ready to fight. Never before were the popular sectors so feverishly ready to fight to destroy the terrorist system that oppresses them.

Since 1954, when the United States government, through the CIA, organized a mercenary invasion that demolished Jacobo Arbenz's revolutionary and democratic regime, the Guatemalan



people have suffered tyranny after tyranny. But now, the people's goal, their unity, and their organization are factors that will inevitably lead to the dictatorship's collapse.

In that perspective, the role of international solidarity with the people of Guatemala is important. The Democratic Front Against Repression, the unifying organization of all the workers, peasants, Indians, students, religious and progressive sectors, has made a call to the peoples of the world to pressure their governments to break their relationships with the Guatemalan dictatorship and to initiate economic and commercial blockades against the regime.

CRUZADA NACIONAL DE ALFABETIZACIÓN
NICARAGUA 1980

SUPPORT NICARAGUA'S LITERACY CRUSADE

Under Somoza 65% of the Nicaraguan people remained illiterate. Beginning in April, 1980 the new National Government of Reconstruction is launching a literacy campaign which will involve more than a million people. The campaign will enable Nicaraguans to participate in the democratic process and the reconstruction of their country. The people of Nicaragua need and deserve our support.

Call in your pledge

489-6887

The Organization of American States has been called upon to send an emergency delegation to Guatemala to verify the grave violations of human rights in that country. The same pressure should be placed on the United Nations and other international organizations. The North American people should ask

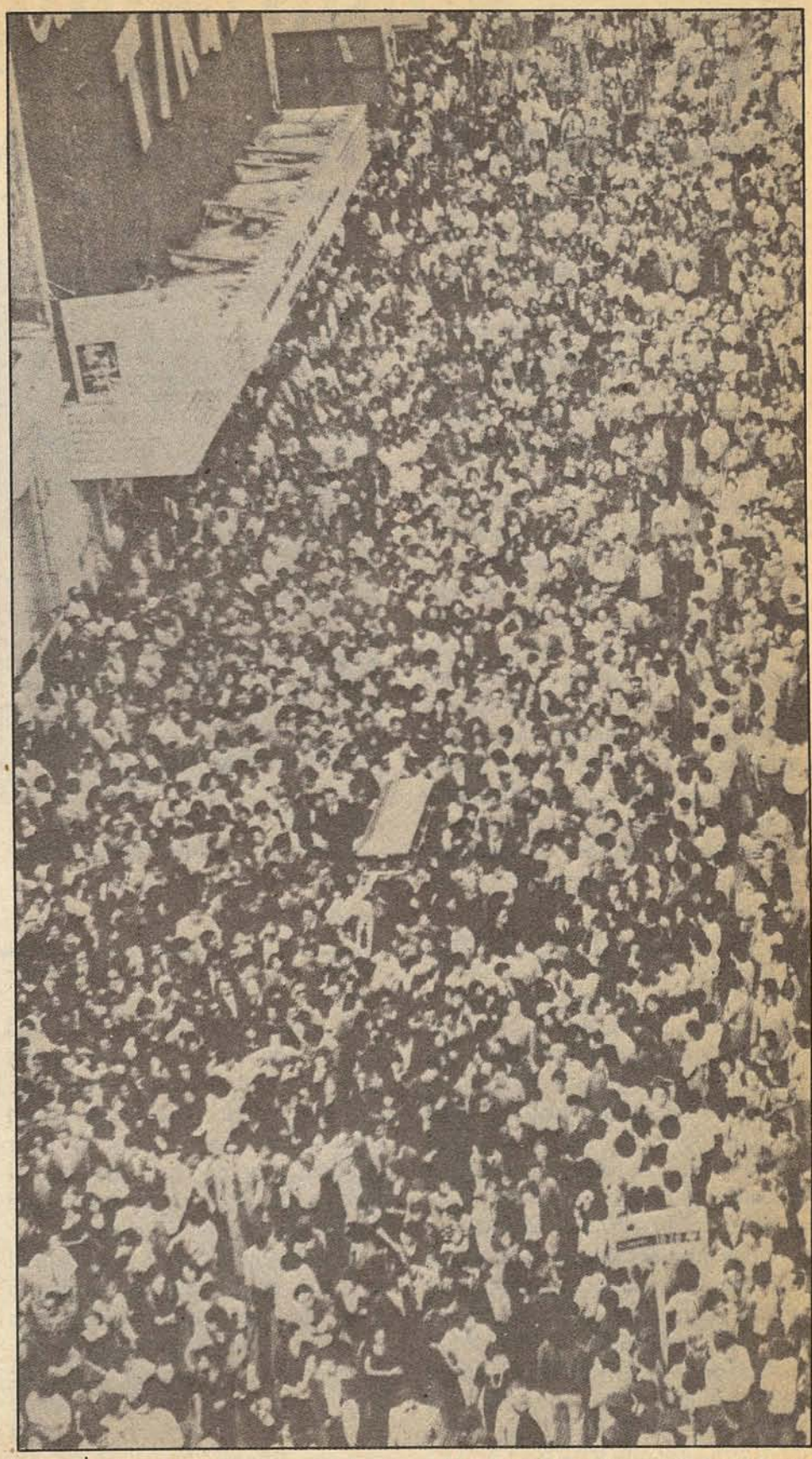
There are no political prisoners in Guatemala...those who fight against injustice are assassinated without mercy.

the United States Senate to deny loans or other types of economic aid to the Guatemalan dictatorship since these resources aren't used for social development programs. Rather, they further the repression against the people by the police and army.

The Guatemalan's struggle is not inspired in ideological fronts, but instead is a struggle for the restoration of democracy and liberty. The dictatorship has suppressed all individual and collective rights of the people. By virtue of terrorist acts, like that against Spain's embassy, the regime intends to silence any voice of protest. Meanwhile, the oligarchy becomes wealthier and the poor become more impoverished each day. The economic and social inequalities widen; unemployment rises; inflation strikes the already feeble salaries, and malnutrition kills the children.

We ask the American people and their organizations to express their solidarity with the people of Guatemala in this decisive hour.

SOLIDARITY
WITH GUATEMALA
P.O. Box 25770
Chicago, Illinois 60625



Thousands attend funeral march – more than 4,000 Guatemalans have been murdered by the Garcia dictatorship in the last 18 months.

Suit Charges State Denies Education For Handicapped Children

By Tim Hart

CHICAGO – A Chicago-based coalition of parents has charged that emotionally disturbed and handicapped children throughout Illinois are being denied a "free and appropriate education."

The Coalition on Children's Mental Health (CCMH) has filed a class action lawsuit against the Governor's Purchase Care Review Board (GPCRB). Parents charge the board with discrimination against emotionally disturbed children by refusing to pay for the costs of private therapy that public schools do not provide. The group also charges that a duplicate review board, appointed two years ago by Governor Thompson, makes such decisions in secret meetings without public input.

According to Caroline Wheeler, president of CCMH, if a public school cannot provide special programs for handicapped children, then the state must reimburse either the parents or private institutions who have the needed facilities. The PCRB, however, has interpreted the law to mean reimbursement for direct educational services only.

The board has ruled that they do not consider therapy or counseling part of an emotionally disturbed child's education. The children, however, are caught in a catch-22, as all private institutions require special therapy for children with emotional and physical problems. Mrs. Wheeler told KEEP STRONG that therapy is a necessary part of an emotionally disturbed child's education.

Caroline Wheeler – "Our children are being denied a free and appropriate education."

Therapy costs are very high and because the state will not pay, many parents go into debt and bankruptcy. Poor parents who cannot afford the costs are forced to keep their children at home where they do not receive the special attention and counseling they have a right to.

The Purchase Care Review Board is made up of department heads from the state's major social service agencies – the Department of Public Aid; the Department of Public Health; the Department of Mental Health; the Department of Aging and the Illinois Office of Education (IOE). All are appointed by the governor, except for IOE, whose head is elected.

The duplicate review board meets in secret without public notice or public participation and control. They decide how to spend all monies appropriated by the state legislature. The duplicate board makes decisions and then out votes the IOE at regular board meetings, without explanation.

This secret board, Caroline Wheeler explains, exercises control over a substantial portion of the state's budget, giving Governor Thompson, who appoints the members, considerable political power.

Last year, several state representatives introduced a bill to abolish the secret duplicate review board and create in its place a public human services purchase care review board. While the bill passed the House, it failed in the state senate, with fierce opposition from Governor Thompson. "The governor brought out every single dog in the state to make sure the bill did not pass," Mrs. Wheeler explained. "Thompson told the bill's sponsors, 'I'll give you anything you want if you drop this bill.'"

Caroline Wheeler says that the Illinois Office of Education has made its lawyers available to the Coalition in an attempt to refile the class action lawsuit against the duplicate review board. Several legislators plan to reintroduce House Bill 0986 again this year to put the secret board under public control. □

Wide Angle

Bert Lance Tried for Bank Fraud

ATLANTA, Georgia—Georgia financier, Bert Lance went to trial here early this year. Lance is charged with 37 counts of bank fraud and conspiracy.

Lance, long time business associate of the Carter family, was a key financial contributor and fundraiser in Jimmy Carters political career. Carter named Lance director of the Office of Management and the Budget shortly after he took office. Lance resigned as federal budget director (a position that gave him responsibility for the government's $600 billion budget) in September, 1977.

The government accuses Lance of conspiring with three other men to get more than $20 million in illegal loans, through 383 separate acts, from 41 banks between 1970 and May, 1979.

Defense attorney Nick Chivilis called Lance, "one of the finest Christian men who ever lived in Georgia." Chivilis explained that Lance was "too busy devoting himself to his family, to his church, to charity...to education...to his state and to his country...to have done the things the government said he did."

Drawing by David Levi

Federal prosecutors have identified all of the overdrafts (bad checks) and their amounts, that Lance and his partners are accused of writing. These included:

$33,000.00 — to Mr. Lance
$226,000.00 — to Mr. Lance's aunt and uncle
$197,000.00 — to Mr. Lance's friend
$142,000.00 — to Lance's brother-in-law.
$71,000.00 — to another Lance brother-in-law
$168,000.00 — to Lance For Governor Committee
$167,000.00 — to Lance, Mrs. Lance and family
$45,000.00 — to David Lance (Lance's son).□

Border Patrolmen Convicted of Brutality

WASHINGTON—A federal judge convicted two United States border patrol officers of conspiring to brutalize undocumented workers who crossed the border from Mexico, at San Ysidro near San Diego, California.

The men, Jeffrey Otherson and Bruce Brown, were accused of organizing a "vigilante group" among other agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. During the trial, Otherson was quoted explaining the purpose of the beatings of undocumented workers, "The criminal justice system just doesn't do anything about these people," to a young border patrol officer. Entering the United States illegally is a civil offense, not a criminal one.

The prosecution was the first against law enforcement officials for violating the civil rights of undocumented workers and only the second time the U.S. government has applied the civil rights statutes to undocumented workers.

Otherson and Brown have not offered to resign from the border patrol. As of this report, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (parent agency of the border patrol) has not begun proceedings to dismiss them.

For the first time law enforcement officials have been prosecuted for violating the civil rights of undocumented workers.

The two agents were indicted, along with two others, by a federal

grand jury in September, 1979. A third vigilante was convicted on two of three counts and allowed to resign from the border patrol to avoid further prosecution.

Otherson and Brown will be sentenced March 15. The maximum penalty is a fine of $15,000 and two years in jail.

Michael Walsh, U.S. Attorney and chief prosecutor in the case warned other border patrol officers of the effect the conviction will have, "It puts border patrol agents on notice all over the country that if they engage in this kind of behavior, they will be convicted." Several similar cases are pending in the southwestern part of the U.S. □

Com Ed Gets What It Wants

CHICAGO – A record 15.8 percent increase was granted to Commonwealth Edison February 7, bolstering the utility's sagging finances. The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) approved 4 – 0 the increases which will provide $389.6 million for nuclear construction. Environmental and consumer groups charged that customers will be paying for unneeded and dangerous power plants so Com Ed can reap higher profits.

The higher rates will not completely finance Com Ed's nuclear program but do give a green light for investors to loan money for the remaining construction budget. Last fall, investments dropped dramatically when the firm's previously top bond rating fell, following an ICC denial of an 18.3 percent hike.

When Com Ed's earnings declined 42 percent in the last quarter of 1979, ICC members fell into line. Commissioner Michael Hasten, for example, feared the power company would go down like the school system since it too has increasingly depended on borrowed funds.

Three days after the rate hike was granted, the Bank of America agreed to loan $300 million so Commonwealth Edison could buy nuclear fuel. □

Supertanks By The Thousands

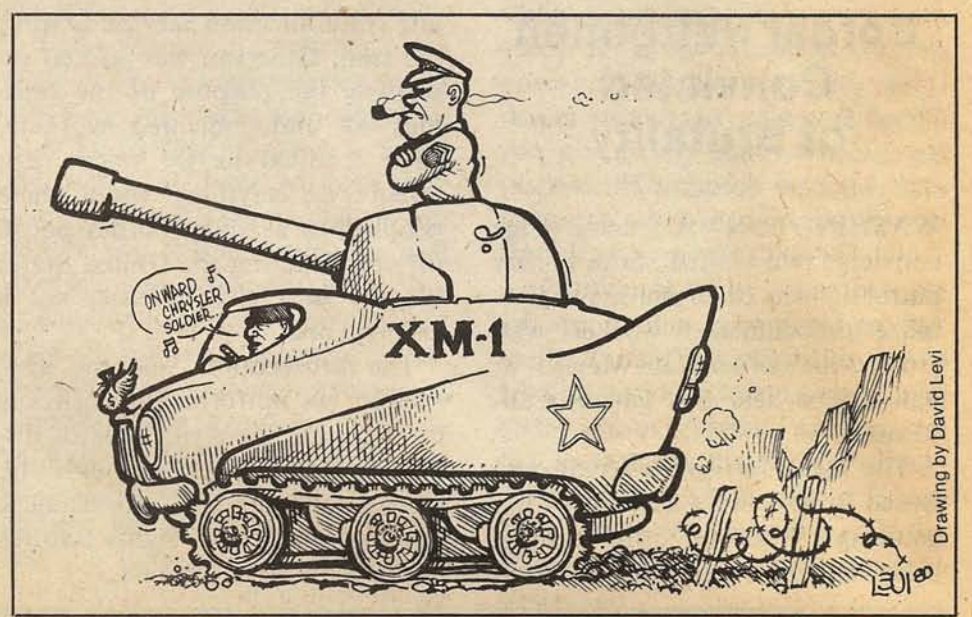
Chrysler Corp. will make more than $10 billion on sale of tanks to Army.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Defense Department has authorized the Army to purchase 7,058 XM-1 supertanks.

The tank has long been a favorite with Army brass. They are excited, they explain, that the 60-ton tank can accelerate from 0 to 20 mph in 6.1 seconds, making it faster than the West German Leopard II. It can do better than 30 mph, and faster than 45 mph on the open road. It can go over a four foot wall, and span a trench nine feet wide.

The tank has one 105 millimeter gun as well as three machine guns. However, Pentagon spokesmen point out that it can be fitted with a 120 millimeter gun if 105 won't do the job. The tank's special feature is a laser pointer. The gunner need only place his sights on the target, pull a trigger that sets off a laser beam to find the range and transmit that to a computer, that in turn aims the gun.

The supertank is also a favorite with directors of Chrysler Corporation. They have the contract to build all 7,058 of the supertanks. The cost – $10 billion, give or take a few hundred million. □

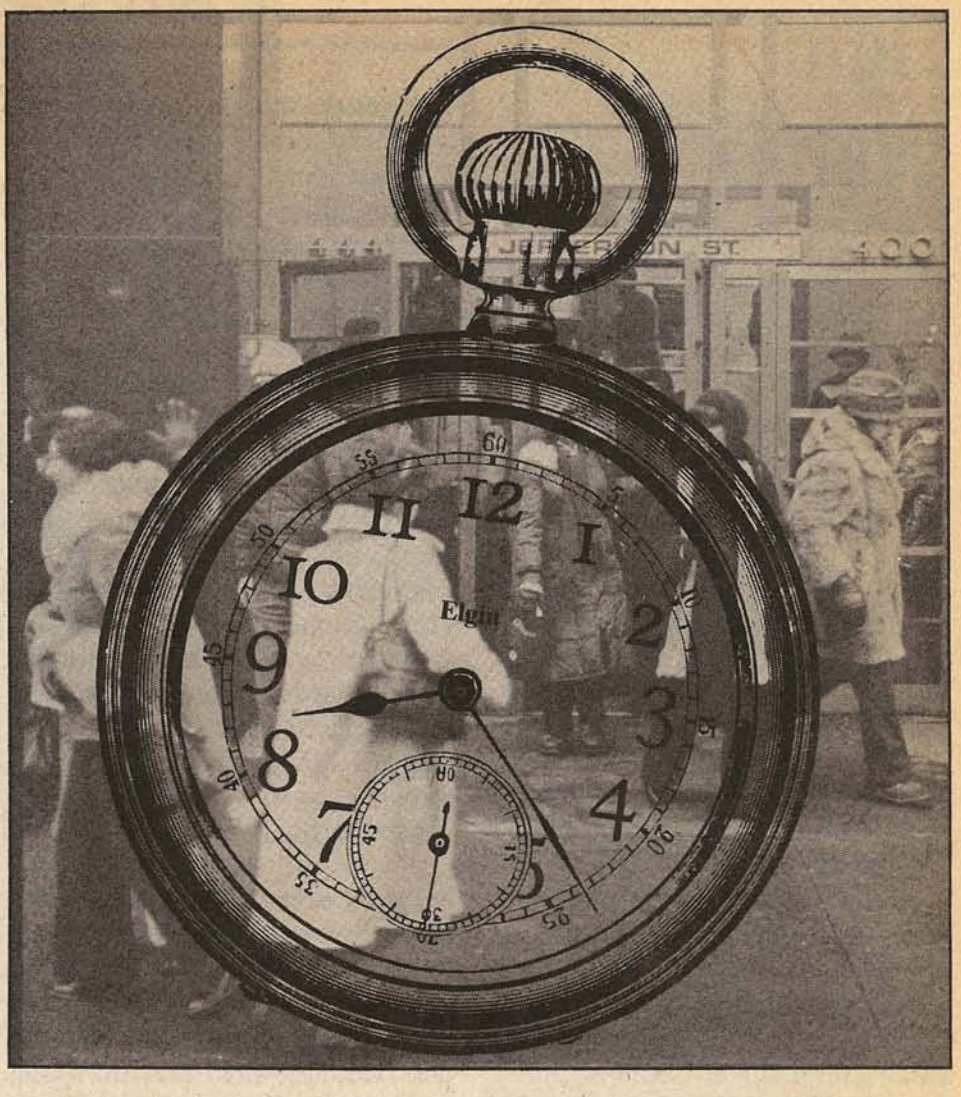


Drawing by David Levi

Elgin Watch Shutting Down—

Chicago Workers Under Siege

Since 1975 more than 65,000 manufacturing jobs left Chicago. Factories are closing fast to make room for luxury mini-cities for the rich...Behind Elgin Watch Company's decision to shut down its Chicago plant and move to Miami are the cold, brutal facts of the city's economic development plan and the slaughter of Chicago's workers....



"We operate two assembly plants in the Virgin Islands, so Miami makes sense. With digital and quartz watches being made in the Far East, we have to be price competitive. Chicago is a high-wage town where steel and auto industries determine the pay scale." – Paul Feinsmith, Vice-President, Elgin and Waltham Watch Company.

In January, Elgin and Waltham Watch Company announced the closing of its Chicago plant by June of this year. New facilities will be set up in Miami, Florida. The plant's closing will put 300 people out of work. The only Elgin employees offered jobs in Miami were 40 executives and technicians.

Alma Stevenson, a stock clerk for 18 years in shipping and receiving speaks angrily about the company's decision to move to Miami. "The newspapers knew about the move to Miami before we did. The announcement came late Sunday night, January 14. On Monday they called a meeting for the workers. This is the worst thing to happen to the people who work here. Everyone has a family to support. Where are we going to get a job? In Florida, they can get three people for the price of one, that's why they are moving. It's cheap labor."

Elgin promised to help the workers find new jobs. They also offered to help them prepare resumés. The company also threw in severance pay – one week's pay for every year on the job. Help in finding new employment never materialized and the severance pay has a catch. Ms. Stevenson explains, "Suppose I go out and interview for another job. Any worker who quits now to take another job does not get the severance pay. If you leave now, you don't get a damn thing. If I find a job, I'll fight the company like hell."

Chicago papers reporting on the closing of the factory labeled Elgin employees as "unskilled." But the meaning of the word "skill" is changing as fast as the factories close and jobs disappear from Chicago.

The State of Illinois Department of Labor predicts that by 1985, there will be 807,000 clerical jobs in the Chicago area, growing at a rate of 38,000 a year. Manufacturing

Elgin Watch

"In Florida they can get three

jobs will grow at a small fraction of that rate. Ninety-seven percent of the factory jobs opening will occur through previous employees retiring, dying or transferring to other fields.

When the Elgin closing was announced, company spokesmen promised that Aetna Bearings, another division of Katy Industries (the corporation which owns Elgin Watch) would interview Elgin workers for job openings. But Jim Rokel, in charge of Aetna's personnel office, reports that only five percent of Elgin's workers qualify for a job at Aetna's northside plant. "There are good hard workers at Elgin, but they are assembly line workers, what you basically call 'unskilled' people. The only job openings at Aetna might be janitorial. Retraining at Aetna is totally out of the question."

Alma Stevenson pounced on that idea. "How can you say these people are 'unskilled' when they are a watchmaker or a worker for 10 to 20 years. It's not right to call us 'unskilled' when we've been working at our jobs for so long."

The movement of factory jobs out of and away from Chicago is a growing trend. Between 1967 and 1977, 174,000 manufacturing jobs left Cook County. And the pace is picking up. More than 65,000 jobs left after 1975. Chicago's 100 largest corporations employ an international labor force of several million, located in 40 states and twice that many countries around the world. Using the Economic Development Commission (EDC) as their main instrument in forming city policy, the giant corporations are directing the development of Chicago to suit their own needs. The program will ultimately turn Chicago into a Headquarters for the administration of that international work force. As the Headquarters grows south and west from the Loop, the manufacturing of goods and the people who do the work, stand in the way.

Dennis Harder, a planner for the city of Chicago, explains, "Elgin Watch sits on the fringe of the Loop. It's part of the central area. Over the next few years the area could be redeveloped like Printers Row, near Dearborn Park. The buildings, once used as factories, could be rehabilitated for commercial use."

Charles Sklavanitis is the executive director of Chicago's $479 million-a-year Economic Development Commission. Sklavanitis told KEEP STRONG, "I didn't know Elgin was moving until I read it in the papers." Checking his records, he discovered that the Commission's last contact with Elgin was in 1975. But a lot has happened since 1975. Most recently, Sklavanitis has introduced and begun to push a proposal for "tax relief" for commercial developers in Chicago and the county. The proposal would reduce property taxes from 40 to 16 percent for 13 years for private developers who build or rehabilitate commercial (hotels, shopping centers, etc.) projects. The tax break proposal comes at a time when County Board President George Dunne has announced a general 96 percent increase in property taxes in the city and county.

But the real reason for the tax break proposal and the break for industry that passed several years ago, is spelled out by EDC staff member Joel Kerstetter, "...The basic fiscal health of a city like Chicago depends to a significant degree on its industrial tax base. Between 1951 and 1972...the value of industrial property in Chicago increased 82 percent." The contradiction between the loss of 13,000 jobs a year and the growing taxable

Abandoned factory in the South Loop – More than 174,000 manufacturing jobs left Cook County between 1967 and 1977.

people for the price of one."

Alma Stevenson — "Everyone has a family to support. Where are we going to get a job?"

value of industry in the city lies at the very heart of the Headquarters idea.

Industry without workers, or industry with few workers is as good or better than commercial developments like hotels. Both add to the taxable wealth of the city. The taxable wealth of the city is the collateral on which municipal bonds are sold. The city's income from municipal bonds (long-term loans with high interest rates) makes up a large chunk of its annual budget. Chicago, in the 21st century, could be a city financed on debt, directed by the borrowers (the largest banks and corporations) and shaped to answer their needs and those of their domestic, white collar work force. To a large degree, the first two of these have already happened.

If the transformation of Chicago into Headquarters and home for international finance and capital is the cart, then the drive for cheap labor is the horse pulling the cart. A recent study by the Illinois Public Action Council reports that 85 percent of all plant closings in Chicago were done by multinational corporations. Forty percent of those occurred after small companies had been bought by the multinational. The drive for cheap labor, sooner or later, moves the jobs to those places where the workers are not organized. More than 40 percent of the manufacturing firms which moved out of Illinois between 1967 and 1977 relocated in states where there are no unions. Six percent moved to those foreign countries where the average daily wage is $10 or less.

Bob Ripper, from the state of Illinois Industry Retention Program offered a basic explanation for Elgin's move to Miami. "It's the high cost of labor. They have two unions. They're in a competitive position. Timex runs an operation in Taiwan where they pay workers $65 a week. The state will help companies find small towns in Illinois where wages are low. Donnelly Press moved from Chicago to Dwight, Illinois. The wage there is $6 an hour, but they have no unions, so they don't have to pay benefits. You could go to some Illinois towns and pay $4 an hour."

No one, however, has stated the case, for the elimination of 300 manufacturing jobs in Chicago better than H.E. Miller, spokesman for Katy Industries, "Katy Industries continues to work with Chicago's international financial community as it seeks to find new acquisitions, to diversify further, and to expand foreign trade."□

Members Economic Development Commission

The prestigious $479-million-a-year Economic Development Commission (EDC) is supposed to "assist" business, industry and commerce to keep jobs in Chicago. The 25-member commission, appointed by the mayor and headed by real estate king Harry Chaddick and Commonwealth Edison chief, Thomas Ayers, is stacked with members of Chicago's top banks and wealthiest corporations.

A. Robert Abboud — *First National Bank*
Thomas Ayers — *Commonwealth Edison*
Sam Bernstein — *Mayor's Office of Manpower*
Michael Brady — *Assistant to Mayor Byrne*
Jerome Butler — *Dept. of Public Works*
Harry Chaddick — *Harry Chaddick Associates*
Frank Considine — *National Can Corp.*
Raymond Coyne — *City Comptroller*
Edward Donnell — *Montgomery Ward*
E. Stanley Enlund — *First Federal Savings and Loan*
Wilson Frost — *City Council Finance Committee*
John Gray — *Hart, Schaffner and Marx*
William Lee — *Chicago Federation of Labor*
Julian Levi — *Southeast Chicago Commission*
Charles Marshall — *Illinois Bell*
Thomas Nayder — *Chicago Building Trades Council*
Martin Murphy — *Dept. of Planning*
John Perkins — *Continental Bank*
Norman Perlmutter — *The Heitman Group*
A.N. Pritzker — *Pritzker and Pritzker*
William Quinlan — *City Corporation Counsel*
Wilfred Rice, Jr. — *Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather & Geraldson*
Arthur Rubloff — *Arthur Rubloff & Co.*
Anderson Scweich — *Chicago Metropolitan Mutual Assurance Co.*
A. Dean Swift — *Sears, Roebuck and Co.*

CHICAGO SCHOOLS ON THE MARKET

Parents and teachers prepare for new rounds of cuts

Clockwise, left to right: Striking Chicago teachers protest $60 million cuts; School Finance Authority meets to order another $120 million cut in school spending (SFA members, left to right: Jean Allard, Gordon Corey, Jerome Van Gorkom, Jay Pritzker); Pilsen parents and children join demonstration at city hall to fight the cuts; School Board President Catherine Rohter and Acting School Supt. Angeline Caruso — "The $60 million cuts are firm and will be achieved."

"We talked about the so-called fiscal crisis of the schools and how it fit into the whole question of moving people out of the city. The attack, we felt, was coming on Blacks, Latinos and working people.... It became very obvious that the 'fiscal crisis' had been in existence for years, 10, 15, 20 years. The banks had always shown a willingness to finance the Board of Education. The banks had been willing to finance the debt. The way to do that was to float bonds and the banks would buy the bonds. Part of the bonds the Board floated went out to pay the interest on the previous debt, and that's the way it kept on going. So the Board kept getting deeper and deeper into debt...

"The communities were going to be made to suffer cutbacks in the programs. We began to get people down to the Board of Education to fight that. Many parents went down from Pilsen to fight these cuts, to testify against these cuts."

Art Vasquez, President of the

Pilsen Housing and Business Alliance, summarized the sentiment of most community people, as parents of 470,000 Chicago school children found themselves militant, but unprepared to fight the take-over of Chicago's schools or the first round of $60 million budget cuts.

From 1969 to 1980, the enrollment in Chicago public schools dropped from 580,000 to 473,000 students. In that same period, the Board of Education built an additional 110 new buildings. Substitutes United For Better Schools (SUBS is an organization of substitute teachers in Chicago public schools) has documented that segregation is the motive for all this construction. Cost of the program is over $400 million.

When four of the five members of the Chicago School Finance Authority met on February 14th, the program was to cut $60 million immediately and to begin working on another $120 million in cuts before April 1st.

After the arrests, headlines, parents' boycott, teachers strike, cursing and name calling, the $60 million cut was ready. It had the stamp of approval, grudgingly, of the Chicago Teachers Union. So did the concept of a bankers' finance

Cuts Force Closing Of Special Education Schools

CHICAGO – When children are unable to attend public schools due to severe learning disabilities, physical or emotional handicaps, the Board of Education is supposed to pay the tuition for the child to attend private school. There are 20 such private special education schools in Chicago. Maria Chavarria's son, Poncho, attends Esperanza, at 520 N. Marshfield. She explains how the $60 million cuts forced on the Board of Education by the banks will hurt handicapped children.

"At first the Board of Education tells you, 'Your child needs a special school because we don't have a place for him, so we'll pay his tuition at a private school.' At Esperanza, the Board is supposed to pay the student's tuition, of $2,000 a year, and the bus tab of $80 a month. Now, all of a sudden, there's 'enough room' in the public school. They're just going to put all our kids in one room and call it a 'dummy room.'

"Our kids have visible handicaps – speech impediments, obesity; we even have an autistic child at

Tim Hart

Maria Chavarria and son – "Poncho doesn't know if he'll go to school tomorrow; the bus company hasn't been paid since September."

Esperanza. In public school other kids make mince meat out of them – cut them up, make jokes, be cruel to them. It's difficult to handle a handicapped child. How can a teacher deal with the so-called 'normal' children in a class of 35 to 40 and then deal with five more with severe problems.?

"In December and January the state released $4.8 million to the Chicago schools for special education. But the Board took the money and paid other bills. Poncho doesn't know if he'll go to school tomorrow. He doesn't know if Stewart Bus company will pick him up; they haven't been paid since September. Finally, in January the Board paid Esperanza $27,000 – their first paycheck since September. Esperanza can function maybe until the end of February, but they had to go to the bank and get a loan. Three special ed schools – Beacon and two on the south side have already closed. The Board hasn't physically shut the doors, but they have no money to operate.

"When they made the $60 million cuts our kids were the first to go. The law states that all children are entitled to a "free" and "equal" education if it cannot be provided in the public schools. Our children will get a 'free Education' – but not an equal one – one that meets their needs."□

authority for the schools. The cuts included the elimination of 1,382 classroom teachers, 830 school administrators and 609 central and district administrative personnel. The Chicago Board of Education now employs 17 administrators for each school, roughly one administrator for every 2.2 teachers.

But the bad news was in before the meeting started. A report from Arthur Anderson and Co., the board's auditors, showed a monthly deficit in the school board budget that would grow from $8.3 million in March to $214 million by July.

Finance Authority Chairman, Jerome Van Gorkom's answer to the growing shortage was to "Restore the school board to acceptability in the market place." Van Gorkom announced that buyers were being sought for $500 million in new bonds scheduled to go on sale April 1st. The board has already paid $187 million in interest to the banks this year (Sept. to Aug.) with another $59 million due in April and August. The new bonds will raise the ante another $50 million or so.

Vasquez explained the reasons for the communities' bitterness, "The way the cuts are coming down, they've already made some cuts in bilingual programs in the high schools. They've cut back positions in those programs. The schools are going to be most affected by cut backs in regular classroom teachers and special programs."

The furor and meetings continue in the communities. City-wide magnet schools (often considered the "elite" of Chicago public schools), and middle schools, developed for sixth, seventh and eighth grades, have been hit hard, as team teaching has been eliminated from Chicago's vocabulary of education. Hundreds of parents in the schools affected most have turned out in record numbers to protest the individual cuts in their schools. At Walt Disney Magnet School over 500 parents attended a meeting following the cut of nearly 80 teacher and teacher aide positions. The first round of program shutdowns and bumping teachers will clearly keep the fires lit.

But the Finance Control Authority's directive to the school board to cut another $120 million from next year's budget before the middle of July, might turn the city into

The School Crisis Has Just Begun

By George Schmidt

By the time the Chicago Public School "Finance Authority" met for the first time on Valentine's day, more than 2,000 Board of Education workers were on layoff. Thousands more were being shifted around as the "bumping" process began. Every school in the city is losing teachers, teachers aides and other staff either through layoffs or bumping. Few children in the city will escape the impact of the cuts which will be disrupting the education in the schools for years to come. In fact, the crisis in the public schools has just begun.

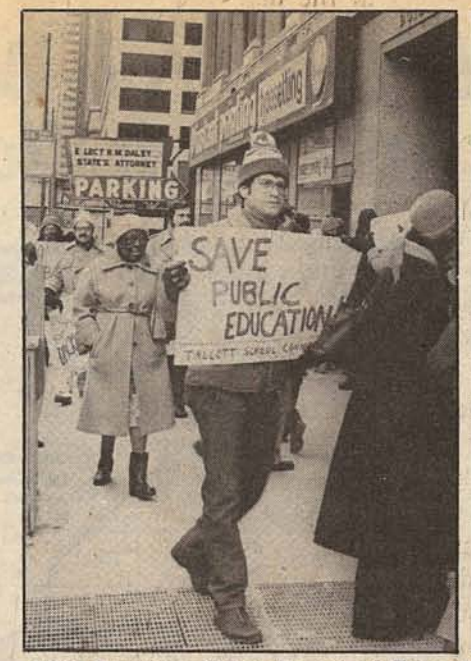
The fight against the cuts which has raged throughout the city since the beginning of January, helped. It resulted in *some* cuts being shifted from one group, school or district to another. It resulted in *some* of the cuts being cancelled *for now*. But that fight will have to continue if the next round of cuts ($106 million demanded before September, 1980) is not to further destroy the schools.

But in order for the majority of people in this city to fight against the bankers' dictatorship, represented by the Finance Authority and personified by the smooth, smiling Jerome (call me "Jerry") Van Gorkom, a lot of bridges are going to have to be built between people. We are only going to win if we can unify the largest group around the strongest program. Both of these jobs are enormous.

During the shutdown and strike, the Chicago Teachers Union worked to build a coalition with community organizations and leaders from around the city to fight against the cuts. This coalition is still in its infancy. It can become one of the most powerful forces in town to fight against the bankers' dictatorship, on one hand, and to fight to improve the schools, on the other.

a full-fledged inferno. Observers predict that another 40-50 schools will have to shut down to meet the demands of the bond brokers and holders.

Many who were caught off guard in December and January, plan on showing greater organization this spring and summer. From several different neighborhoods in the city, talk of a city-wide parents union is being heard. An organization like that, activists say, could unite with the teachers union from a position of strength and together, "We could deal with the bankers toe to toe." "Who knows," one northside leader commented, "maybe we'll move a few thousand families into the Hyatt House (owned by Finance Authority member A.N. Pritzker) for a couple of months."□



Left: Parents picket Board of Education building – talk of a city-wide parents union grows; Right: Police board member and West Side community leader Nancy Jefferson pleads with police not to arrest angry parents demonstrating at January school board meeting.

But in order for unity and the program necessary to do these jobs to be forged, both union leaders and community representatives are going to have to be patient with one another.

On the one hand, the union (at least through its national leadership, Albert Shanker of the American Federation of Teachers) has shown that it can swing its organizational weight against the community. Chicago is not New York, and we do not have to repeat New York's mistakes. But unless we are careful, we may do so.

On the other hand, there is some hostility to teachers in general and to the teachers' union, in particular, throughout the city.

What most people in Chicago don't know, is that the bulk of the union contract is devoted to educational questions: class size, supplies, preparation time, staffing of libraries, etc. It is in these areas and in the wages and fringe benefits of the teachers that the vampires from LaSalle St. want to take their biggest cut. It is in these areas where the children of Chicago need protection the most.

Over the next several months, the question of quality education will overlap in many cases with the question of the interests of the teachers and their union. It would be wise for all of us to spend our time learning more about what each does and how we can work together.

We have a chance in this city to unite the teachers with the majority of this city against the bankers' takeover.

For the next generation of Chicago's children, I hope that we can do so.□

George Schmidt is President of SUBS – Substitutes United For Better Schools.

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Byrne's Transit Plan: "You Won't Get To Heaven, Or To And From Work."

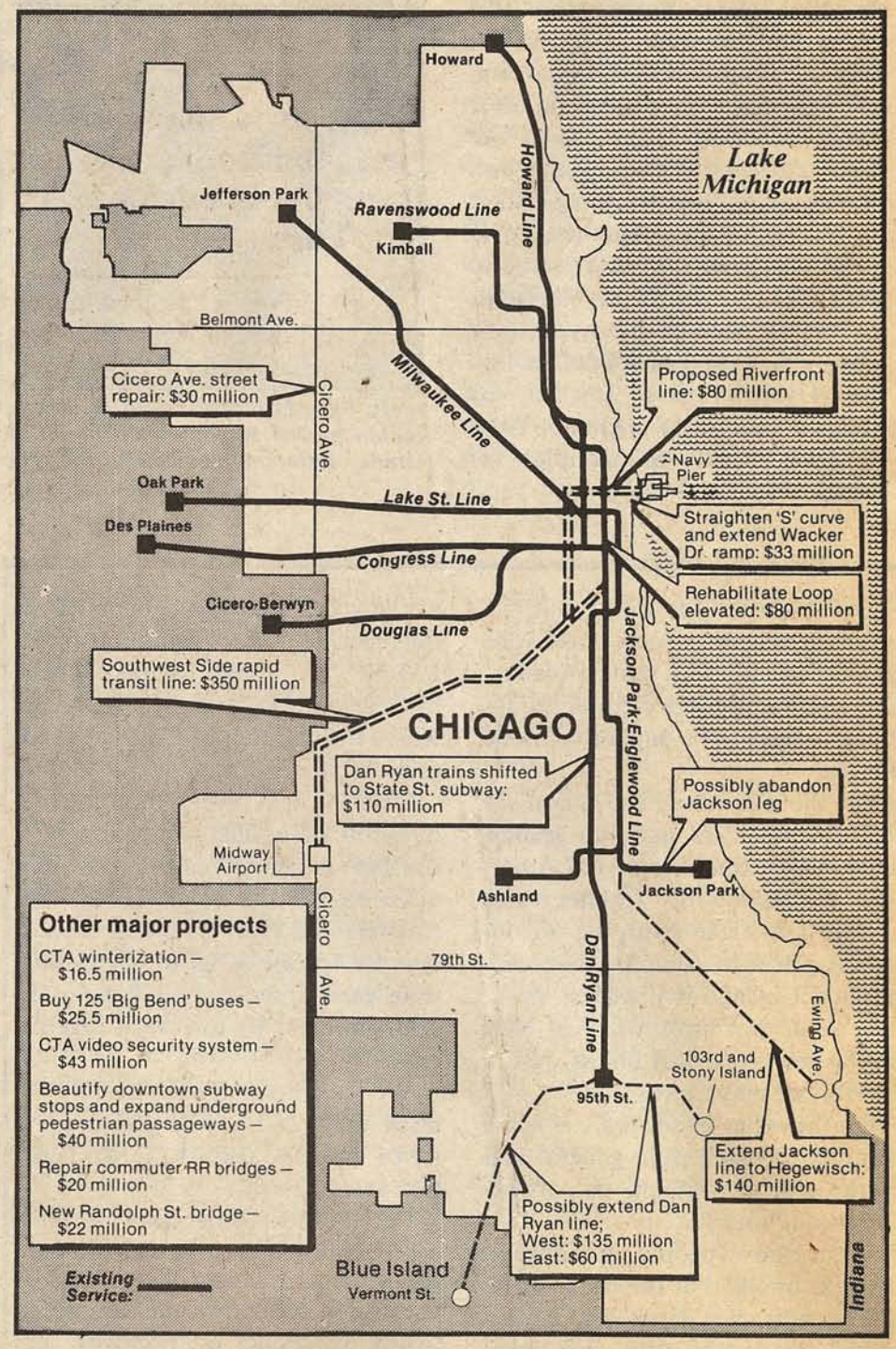
CHICAGO – Mayor Jane Byrne's $1.1 billion transportation "improvement" package will damage mass transit service to many areas of the city, especially the Black and Latino neighborhoods on the Southeast side, according to community residents and the transit workers' union.

Highlights of the mayor's plan, announced in late November include:

- a full-scale rapid transit line to link Midway Airport and the Southwest side with the Loop (estimated cost: $350 million);
- possible replacement of the decaying Jackson Park "El" with a new rapid transit line to the Southeast side (cost: unknown);
- the purchase of 125 new, "Big Bend" buses (cost: $25 million);
- a rapid transit line along the Chicago River from Pilsen to Navy Pier (cost: $80 million);
- long overdue "winterization" of CTA trains and buses ($16.5 million);
- improvement of security at rapid transit stations.

Larry Tell, who has covered transportation issues for the *Chicago Reporter*, says that Byrne's transit plan is a "legacy of the city's transportation failures of the 1970s," and that it may well produce serious financial problems in the future.

According to Tell, city planners admit that they expect that the new Southwest, Southeast and Riverbank transit lines "will add significantly to CTA operating costs in



Map (above) shows highlights of Byrne's $1.1 billion transit plan. Transit union spokesmen charge that plan will result in poor transit service to Black and Latino neighborhoods on the Southeast side.

the decades ahead. Unless a new deal to fund mass transit in Chicago on a year-to-year basis is arranged soon, future transit riders will be forced to dig deeper into their pockets to support the mayor's grandiose strategy for the '80s."

John M. Weatherspoon, president of Local Union 241 of the Amalgamated Transit Union, has criticized Byrne's plan for a new Southeast side rapid transit line. "The elimination of the Jackson Park 'El' and alignment of a new route along the Chicago Skyway would result in a poor quality transit service to the Black and Latino neighborhoods on the Southeast side," he said.

Weatherspoon noted that the mayor proposes to run the new Southeast side and Southwest side lines through industrial areas along the Chicago Skyway and the Stevenson Expressway. As a result, he said, "The security and convenience of passengers would suffer. Lines in these industrial areas would be off the beaten path and riders would be afraid."

Transit Union Financial Secretary, Charles Hall, says that the "Big Bend" buses "are really a 'Big Boondoggle'" because they are "continually late on their schedules resulting in messed up service and overtime costs for drivers who get in late." Tell agrees that the union "may extract a higher price for driving the new vehicles that could eliminate any cost savings from the more efficient buses."

Tell also says that the proposed Pilsen-to-Navy Pier rapid transit line "has already been termed 'silly' by federal transit officials who must approve each new project. Unlike the other proposed improvements, the 'riverbank line' would not ease an existing transit bottleneck. It would open up whole new vistas for development on the fringe of the Loop," including architect Harry Weese's plan for River City, a luxury, high-rise "mini-city" along the south branch of the river.

The $1.1 billion plan will damage transportation to the neighborhoods, but benefit big business in the Loop.

Local Union 241 Recording Secretary, Timothy O'Mahoney, advocates the construction of streetcar lines to serve the Southwest side and to connect Pilsen with Navy Pier. "Streetcars operate faster and more efficiently than buses when the streetcar tracks are separated from street traffic," O'Mahony says.

Also according to O'Mahony, "a streetcar system could be built for less and have lower operating costs than full-scale rapid transit." Statistics provided by the transit union indicate that construction of a full-scale transit line costs about $100 million per mile, whereas Denver, Colorado is building a streetcar line for only $11.6 million per mile.

Although the transit project is "free" to Chicago taxpayers since the actual construction bills will be split between the federal government (80 percent) and Illinois (20 percent), CTA riders are already paying the price for the package, Larry Tell explains. The new plan emerged after Mayor Byrne made a deal with Governor Thompson to drop state funding for CTA operations and increase Cook County's sales tax by one cent to pay for current transit operations. As a result, CTA riders were hit with a ten cents fare hike last October. Basic transit fare in Chicago is now 60 cents.

Since the plan was unveiled, People Against the Transit Hike (PATH) has called for city-wide opposition to the mayor's proposal. Last August, PATH presented 10,000 signatures on a petition protesting the fare increase at a public hearing. (See KEEP STRONG, September, 1979). Continuing its work to demand low-cost, safe public transportation, PATH recently summed up their position on the transit plan: "We have serious questions on whether that plan reflects the needs of people in neighborhoods or making Chicago attractive to big business and finance." PATH urges community groups to study the plan and participate at the upcoming public hearings.□

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OSCH, DVR, JVS, DOA, IDPA — 345,000 elderly get trapped to death in a multi-million dollar bureaucracy of "helping agencies."

Growing Old In The City

By Debbie Wolen

Martin Rios was born and raised in a small town in Cuba 78 years ago. He was a man who loved to make jokes and laugh with his family and friends. He liked to go dancing when he was younger and he still liked to listen to tapes of Salsa music, with the hot Cuban rhythms. He and his wife enjoyed telling stories of their homeland. They grew up in the same town and knew each other a long time. When they wanted to get married they had to follow the traditions of courtship.

Mrs. Rios father was a worker – but at home he was quite formal. He wore long sleeve shirts with high collars and ties on Sundays. One Sunday in 1930 Mr. Rios dressed in a long sleeve shirt and high collar and went to the house of Maria's father to ask to marry her. When they married they stayed in their home town where they had family and friends. Mrs. Rios raised the children and took up sewing for extra money. Mr. Rios worked as a carpenter and in a liquor factory. The liquor was made from juice squeezed from sugar cane which was then fermented in large vats. Then workers had to climb tall ladders to check on the fermenting juice. The work was dangerous and sometimes workers were injured.

As he grew older, Mr. Rios developed health problems. In 1975 he and his wife came to Chicago hoping to find better health care and to live closer to their children. Last spring doctors discovered that Mr. Rios had cancer. He was hospitalized for a time. After receiving all the treatments that he could be given, he returned home. The couple could have stayed with one of their children, but they wanted to be in their own place. The family wanted Mr. Rios to be as comfortable as possible. They wanted him to die at home when the time came. He had had several strokes and his vision was poor. Everyone realized that Mrs. Rios, also in her 70s could not take care of him alone.

For awhile Medicare paid for a visiting nurse and a home health aide. These services, though, are defined by Medicare to be short term, until the patient or family can "do for themselves," within a maximum of 60 days. But in a terminal illness, the time period that help in the home is needed, often goes past 60 days.

Mrs. Rios knew other sources of home help had to be found. She began a futile run-around with state, city, and private helping agencies. In mid-September, 1979, Mr. Rios' caseworker was called to make ar-

rangements for the homemaker's service. The caseworker said that the Illinois Department of Public Aid (IDPA) was no longer handling the homemaker services, they were being handled through the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens (MOSC). A MOSC worker said they had no idea what was being done with the homemaker program.

The caseworker at IDPA was called back. He said MOSC should know about the program but suggested calling the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). DVR said they had nothing to do with homemakers. They said to try Jewish Vocational Services. This local agency explained that they were using their money for training people to fix typewriters not homemakers.

Toward the end of September Rios again contacted MOSC and they admitted they "knew" about the program. They said they were just starting to decide how to run the service and suggested calling back in two to three weeks. By mid-October a worker confided they were still nowhere near starting the program. They said they had funds for 2,000 homemakers but IDPA had transferred 6,000 cases to them. MOSC said they didn't know how to decide who got the 2,000 available homemaker services. They didn't know what they could do about Mr. Rios' new case. "Try calling back in a week," they said, "when we have defined the guidelines."

By November, the guidelines were still undefined but the caseworker thought Mr. Rios' case was important. She said she would make his case a priority and try to push it through. By the end of November they had agreed to do a home evaluation. On December 4, the evaluation went well and the caseworker requested a homemaker for five days a week for four hours each day with the contracting agency McMaid. Two weeks later no homemaker had arrived. The home health aide was laid off

Programs are widely advertised so that seniors think city officials are doing a lot to help.

December 18. McMaid said that they were unable to send anyone out because of the CTA strike which lasted December 17 to the 20. By late December, no homemaker had arrived on public transportation. Mrs. Rios was growing mentally and physically exhausted, doing most of the nursing care, special cooking, cleaning and laundry herself. She needed someone to help every morning for a few hours so she could sit down and rest.

By January of this year, Mrs. Rios no longer had the strength to care for all of her husband's daily needs. In desperation she finally sent him back to the hospital. There, doctors insisted that he needed operations on his throat and stomach, and they operated on him several times. He died within a few weeks. Although his family has asked why the doctors would operate on a terminally ill patient, the doctors would only explain that Mr. Rios "needed" the operations.

There are more than 345,000 people over 65 living in Chicago, comprising 11.5 percent of the city's population. Of the 22,600 senior citizens living in the Uptown community, 45 percent live alone and under the poverty level.

Many of these people live in small one or two room apartments. Others live in senior citizen hotels like Chelsea House, Lawrence House and Lakeland House. Some of them live in high rises along the

OSCH (formerly MOSC – the Mayor's Office On Senior Citizens and Handicapped) – $12 million a year for Chicago's elderly gets gobbled up in huge public and private bureaucracies.

lake, while others live in the nursing homes and halfway houses that dot Uptown. A few old people live on the street.

But Uptown is not unique. And the senior citizens scraping from check to check and meal to meal aren't any worse off than their peers in a dozen different neighborhoods in Chicago or 100 other cities in the United States.

There has been a lot of talk about the problems of old people in the past ten years. Students in the "helping field" (social work) are taught that people should be treated with respect and that they have a right to die with dignity. Agencies like the Department of Health, Education and Welfare attempt to make policies that are designed to keep people from being institutionalized. The training schools, the agencies and the policy makers believe that they are doing something new and innovative. Although they are seldom asked for their opinions, older people have known for a long time that they deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.

In the state of Illinois, programs for senior citizens came through the IDPA until last fall. According to Tim Jost of the Legal Assistance Foundation, IDPA was sued on several occasions for excessive delays in processing applications for services and for making the eligibility requirements tighter than the law stated. Last fall, Public Aid programs for senior citizens were transferred to a newly created Department on Aging (DOA).

The Department of Aging contracts with the Office on Senior Citizens and Handicapped (OSCH), formerly the Mayor's Office on Senior Citizens, to provide services in Chicago. This year, DOA is sending them $12 million for different programs.

OSCH, in turn, awards the money in contracts to private social service agencies to administer and deliver the services. In Uptown and northeast Chicago, Catholic Charities handles the contracts. On the west side, they are handled by the Urban League and on the northwest side they are handled by the YMCA.

The major services offered by OSCH are the "housekeeper" (homemaker) and "delivered meals" (meals on wheels) programs. These programs were announced with much ado and are widely advertised.

In a maze of memos and bureaucratic shuffling, the elderly remain neglected in our society.

But getting a housekeeper or delivered meals can be a lengthy and complicated procedure. First, a caseworker comes to an old person's home to evaluate his/her needs. Then, a second evaluation must be done by a public nurse.

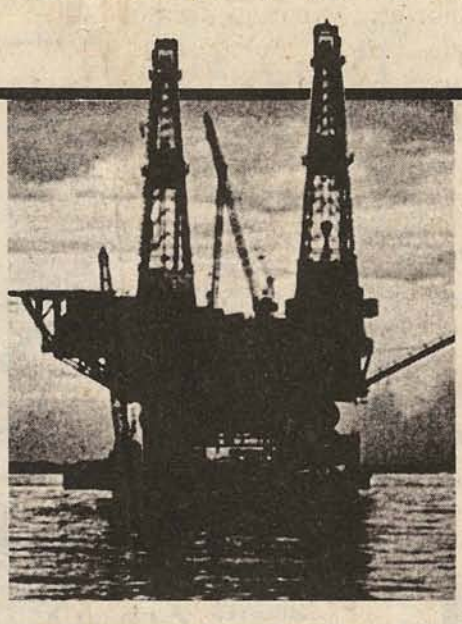
If both evaluations indicate that services are necessary, the person is placed on a waiting list. Applications for senior citizen public housing must wait from 18 months to two years. The waiting list for delivered meals is six to eight weeks. City-wide, 1,000 meals are delivered six days a week by the contracted agencies and 400 meals by private groups and churches without public funds. 581 people are currently on the waiting list. OSCH is requesting $750,000 for this year, to provide an additional 500 meals. However, HEW officials estimate that at least 10,000 more old people actually need the service.

The day to day struggle against cold hostile institutions is a reality that many have learned to live with. While those who have learned to adjust do not appreciate the policies, they have a sharp understanding of the treatment.

Between 1970 and 1976, the federal government more than doubled its annual payments for health care for people over 65, from $10 billion to $24 billion. In the same time the cost of staying in a hospital one day tripled. Falling behind in a rapidly changing economy is a life and death problem for millions of older Americans. Billions of dollars in federal programs and grants directed through city and non-profit agencies are designed to lift some of the unbearable pressure that comes when you don't have enough money to survive and are too old to do anything about it. But the programs don't reach the people and the grant monies are gobbled up in huge public and private bureaucracies.

The treatment of senior citizens in Chicago and other cities needs a hard examination. Such an examination will reveal the basis of the policy that allowed Martin Rios to die alone under the knife. □

Oil War I Ahead?



The Beginnings

1946, John A. Loftus, Chief of the Petroleum Division of the Department of State, addresses the graduating class of the University of Pittsburgh, in a speech outlining U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and Persian Gulf for years to come:

"Oil is at the present time, and for some time to come, a major commodity and a major problem. During this period of time, oil will continue to be a focal point of friction among nations, and a source of conflict and instability, unless the circumstances which surround its ownership and development are most carefully studied and understood.

"Until 1920 the petroleum industry did not enter significantly into the foreign relations of the United States. Abundant supplies of oil were available domestically and indeed a substantial export business was developed. At this point the industry had little to do with the government and the government little to do with the industry.

"After 1920 American oil companies sought concessions in various parts of the world. Whenever, in this process, they encountered obstacles against American capital, the government, through the Department of State, intervened vigorously and effectively to insist on recognition and application of the 'open door.'"

Explaining the world situation in relation to the American oil companies, Loftus listed ten important things which must be accomplished. Among them he called for:

1. The promotion of the development of oil potentialities in the Eastern Hemisphere, particularly in the oil-rich areas of the Middle East.
2. The encouragement of the participation of American capital in the development of these Eastern Hemisphere resources.
3. Promotion of a generally stable political and economic environment in that area.
4. Promotion of the international oil trade so that supplies from abroad may be available to meet the needs of the United States.

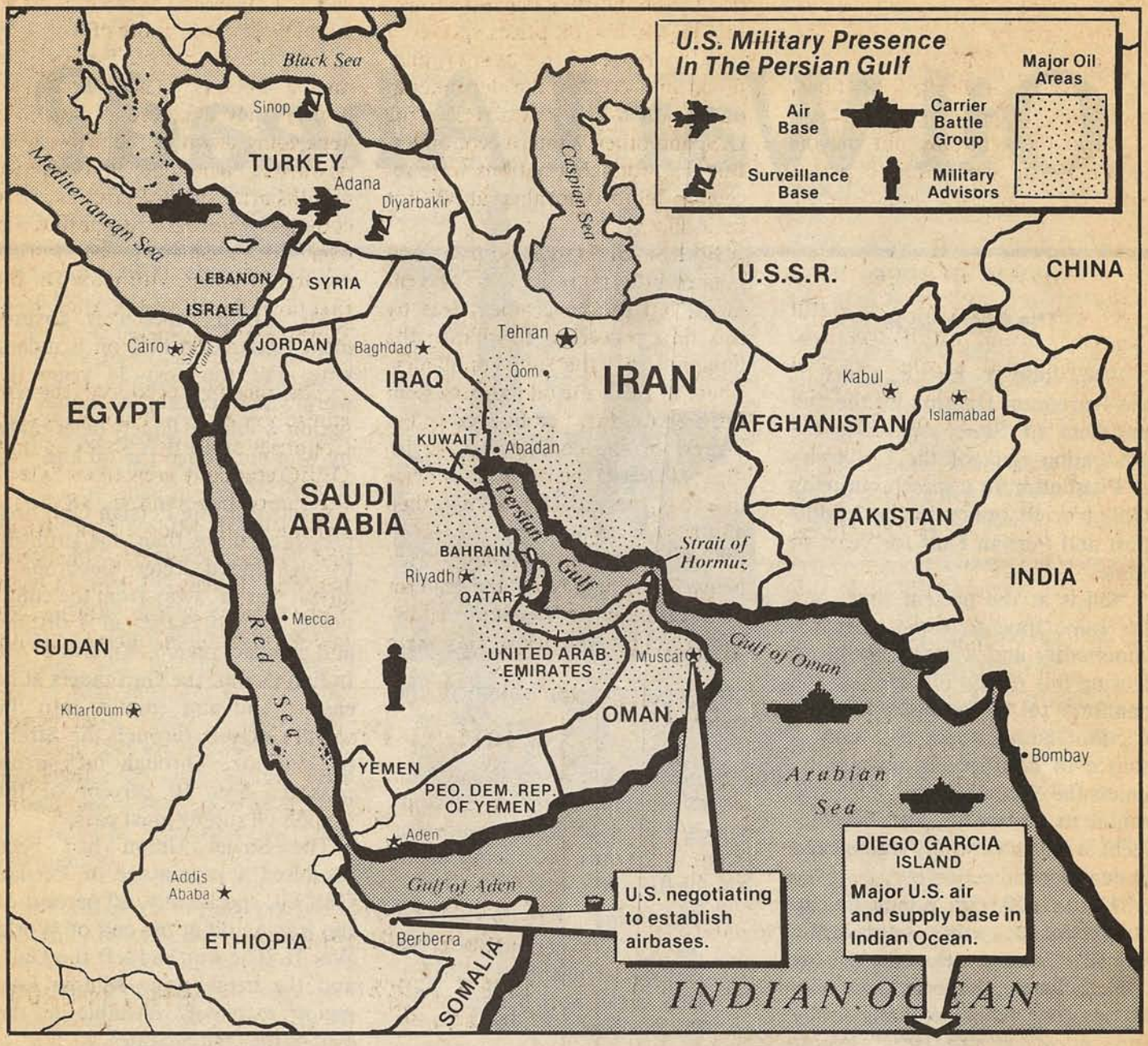
Mr. Loftus' speech is government recognition that oil is indeed king. For the next 34 years the world's political and economic situation would be largely determined by who controlled the oil and who wanted control.

Control of the Persian Gulf area presented more than one problem for the United States. Geographically, it was far away from the continental United States, in a distinct and compact region. An arm of the Indian Ocean, the Gulf tapers at its eastern end and empties into the world's oceans through the Straits of Hormoz. Through its narrow passage, over 60 percent of the world's oil supply must pass.

The Soviet Union had been promised a percentage of Persian Gulf oil, specifically, 20 percent of the Iranian oil at the end of World War II. The war had left the Gulf, and the neighboring Middle East region extremely unstable in the eyes of the United States.

To prevent the Soviet Union from taking the oil they had been promised in Iran, the U.S. began to rebuild the Iranian government into a military force in the area. The overhaul was completed by 1953, when the CIA toppled the Iranian government and placed the Shah in power. The deposed government of Dr. Mossadegh had tried to stop the U.S. intervention in his country, but the Shah quickly con-

Oil War I Ahead?



verted Iran into a U.S. henchman.

While it was strengthening the Iranian military, the U.S. moved into Saudi Arabia. Using their most modern technology, the oil companies developed the oil fields of Saudi Arabia, enormously increasing the wealth of the Saudi rulers. Saudi Arabia, in effect, became a "bank" through which oil profits could be funneled to pacify other nations.

Over the next quarter century, Saudi money would help the U.S. turn Egypt away from the Soviet Union and towards this country and finance Iran's military venture in Oman to suppress a popular uprising. This policy, later to be called the "twin pillar" policy with Iran and Saudi Arabia as the "pillars," would last almost 30 years.

Next, the U.S. government gave the oil companies unprecedented support. The anti-trust laws, which came into being largely because of the oil companies, were now ignored. Oil companies could once again legally set prices among themselves and act as one body, not as separate companies. To give the companies more money to expand their Persian Gulf operations, the Oil Depletion Allowance was doubled. This law enables oil companies not to pay almost a third of their taxes because the product they sell (oil) will eventually run out.

The money was supposed to be

used to conserve existing energy and to find new sources of it. The striking of the anti-trust laws, the raising of the Oil Depletion Allowance, plus the growing importance of oil in the economy put the oil companies in a position to determine U.S. domestic and foreign policy.

The Rise Of OPEC

For the next 27 years, a handful of giant U.S. and British oil companies maintained absolute control over the international production and distribution of oil. The late Italian oil czar, Enrico Mattei, called them the "Seven Sisters," and the U.S. Justice Department bluntly referred to them as "The International Oil Cartel."

But this cartel did things differently than most other monopolies. Instead of immediately raising prices, the industry began to lower prices. The low oil prices spurred a rapid increase in the consumption of oil and created the dependence on oil which now characterizes the U.S. and other Western economies. But the producing nations were receiving almost nothing at all for their oil.

Both Saudi Arabia and Iran complained bitterly to the U.S. government, but the government was by this time powerless to change the direction of the oil companies. Then, in 1960, the oil industry went one step too far. Led by Exxon, the biggest of the companies, the industry lowered the price of oil twice in a row, first, by 18 cents and then another ten cents.

So while the oil companies were being given money by the government through the Depletion Allowance to conserve energy, they were actually lowering the price of oil so people would buy more of it.

This was too much for the producing nations. The amount of money they received from taxes kept going down as the prices went down. On September 9, 1960, two months after the last price cut, five countries who were responsible for over 80 percent of the world's exports of oil met formally for the first time: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Venezuela.

The meeting produced the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries or OPEC. Shaky at first, OPEC gradually grew to include all the major exporters of oil in the Persian Gulf, Middle East, Africa and Latin America, including: Nigeria, Sudan, Libya, Oman, Yemen, Kuwait, Iraq, Algeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Quatar

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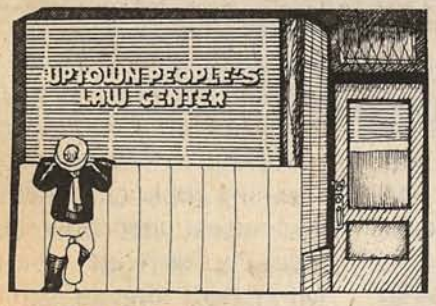

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Oil War I Ahead?

and the United Arab Emirates.

By 1973, OPEC began to realize its power. Oil prices were raised to bring in more taxes from the oil companies. With this accomplished, the producing countries moved to take back control over the fields themselves. One by one, the oil giants lost control over not only the price per barrel but production rates as well.

When the second Israeli-Arab war broke out, the situation became critical for the industry and the government. The continued Israeli expansion into Arab land had united all the OPEC members. The U.S. was in a bind. On the one hand they supported Israel, because its economy was closely linked with the U.S. and other western countries, while on the other, the oil was in Arab land.

The Israeli Secret Service had been working with the CIA to keep resistance movements from spreading in the area, for while the rulers of the Arab nations were getting rich, the people were starving. The U.S. could not afford to lose Israel's presence in the area. To resolve the problem, the government embarked upon its present strategy. In order to appear neutral, the U.S. sold arms to everybody involved, while behind the scenes the government began negotiations with Israel and the more conservative Arab nations.

Iranian military might was increased and Saudi money was everywhere. In 1978, the plan became a reality with the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace pact. National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, hailed the peace settlement as the "pouring of concrete into the two pillars." The complete strategy called for the uniting of Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, the Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Iran and Israel. These "regional influentials" as Brzezinski called them, would maintain control of the area. The use of U.S. military force itself was avoided.

Once again the strategy seemed intact. But in the second week of 1979, one of the two original pillars crumbled. For too many years the Shah of Iran had fed his military machine while people starved. The Shah declared martial law but it was too late. More people demonstrated. Police stations were attacked and half the Shah's army deserted.

From Paris, the Ayatollah Khomeini, who had been exiled some years before by the Shah, urged his people forward to topple the corrupt regime. By January 1, 1979, the Shah had resigned, appointing a new government and saying he would stay in the country to help make reforms. But one week later, the Shah left the country, taking the entire Iranian treasury of $30 billion with him.

Between 1970 and 1978, the Shah fed his military machine with $20 billion worth of merchandise from the U.S. while his people starved.

Between 1970 and 1978 only, the Shah had ordered $20 billion worth of military merchandise from the U.S.

In addition to the conventional military gear, vast quantities of police weapons were ordered to arm the Iranian Secret Police (SAVAK), which earned an international reputation as the most brutal police force on earth, specializing in torture and assassination. The rapid growth of Western technology and culture had infuriated the deeply religious people of Iran.

Having alienated himself from the people of Iran, the Shah became more and more brutal. All peaceful demonstrations were banned, other political parties were outlawed and Moslem religious leaders were attacked. But still the resistance grew and by the end of 1978 nothing could save the Shah. By the tens of thousands the Iranian people took to the streets.

For the second time since World War II, the "stable business environment" sought after by the oil industry had been threatened. Even before the Shah left Iran, Secretary of Defense, Harold Brown warned that the U.S. "would not hesitate to intervene militarily" if it thought the flow of oil would be disrupted or detoured to other parts of the world. He backed his statement by moving the U.S. aircraft carrier, *Constellation*, closer to the Gulf.

Secretary of Energy Schlesinger, speaking about U.S. interests in the area stated that there could be a dramatic shift of power in the world and threatened that the whole of the Western economy might collapse if "the Persian Gulf should fall into Soviet or radical Moslem hands.□

Part 2 next month.

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By Nery Barrientos

"We are here, singing, now above all, because our voices are the testimony of many voices which are silenced or gagged in our country. Now above all, because we are a cry of liberty and we are here to tell you what we are seeking, why we are struggling...."

--From the Credo of *Inti-Illimani*, Chilean Folk Group performing at the Medinah Temple, April 20, 1980.

Inti-Illimani, a magnificent exponent of the "New Chilean Song Movement" will no doubt captivate its Chicago audience. Coming here for the first time, as part of a United States tour, *Inti-Illimani* will perform in homage to the late Pablo Neruda, the Chilean Nobel Prize winning poet and freedom fighter.

Only a few short years ago, *Inti-Illimani, Quilapayun, Aparco,* and many others were performing throughout Chile. Cultural activities were flourishing, stimulated by the government headed by Salvador Allende. A vibrant movement was overcoming the barriers of the past. The genius of the Chilean people, confined for more than a century, came out and took over the land, the factories, the schools and the universities, modeling and shaping new men and women.

Inti-Illimani, helped build this movement and were honored as "ambassadors of the Chilean people by President Allende. Founded in 1967, while they were students at the State Technical University in Santiago, *Inti-Illimani* was in Europe at the time of the fascist coup that overthrew the government of the Chilean people. President Allende, as he had promised, re-

sisted in the Government Palace until the end. Asked to resign by Pinochet (now the head of Chile's dictatorial regime), President Allende responded that he would not "make treaties with traitors." The palace was bombarded and the President of Chile was found dead.

As a result of the fascist coup, 30,000 Chileans were killed; 2,500 have disappeared; 150,000 were arrested; and one million (10 percent of the population) were forced into exile. Now trade unions are restricted and strikes are illegal; meetings are forbidden; Congress is suspended and political parties outlawed; universities are under military control while books and records of the most outstanding Chilean creators have been destroyed and forbidden.

Pablo Neruda, one of the first Chilean creators silenced by the coup, was renowned throughout the world for his poetry, beautiful yet strong in exposing injustice. Neruda, a former senator, Consul in India, and Ambassador to France, was arrested by the military the same week of the September, 1973 coup. He was then confined to a military hospital where he died surrounded by the military, with even his wife prevented from seeing him. Neruda's house was ransacked, his poetry banned and his wife rushed into exile.

The legacy of Neruda is continued by artists in exile like *Inti-Illimani*. Though they are a colossal musical phenomena in Europe, their own music is forbidden in their own country. *Inti-Illimani* records have won important prizes throughout Europe. Their concerts are filling stadiums with thousands of people from Latin America to Japan. Wherever they perform, the critics acclaim *Inti-Illimani*.

"These six young men are brilliant exponents of the basic folk instruments of South America, particularly those of the Andean highlands...," said the *Daily Telegraph* of London. *The New York Times* added, "....*Inti-Illimani* brings a contemporary, progressive spirit to its music with fascinating results. One song the group performed, 'La Partida,' featured lovely bell harmonics from the guitars, a shifting pattern of cross-rhythms on the guitar-like charango, and a quena lead. *Inti-Illimani's* voices are strong, especially when all six musicians are singing in unison, harmony or counterpoint. The string work is excellent, with intricate arrangements that sometimes fit together in a socket-like manner reminiscent of traditional Andean panpipe.music."

The Washington Post said, "Using traditional native instruments – the tiple, a small guitar with 12 metal strings; the bombo, a large leather drum; and the quena, a haunting South American flute – *Inti-Illimani* offered its audience rich stirring vocals and virtuoso musicianship."

Chicagoans attending the April 20th event, sponsored by the Chicago Committee to Save Lives In Chile, will find *Inti-Illimani* in the best tradition of the Chilean people, following songsters such as Violeta Parra, who defined her own singing this way:

I do not play my guitar
for applause.
I sing of the difference
Between what is true
and what is false;
Otherwise I do not sing.

Nery Barrientos is a Chilean exile and member of the Chicago Committee to Save Lives in Chile.

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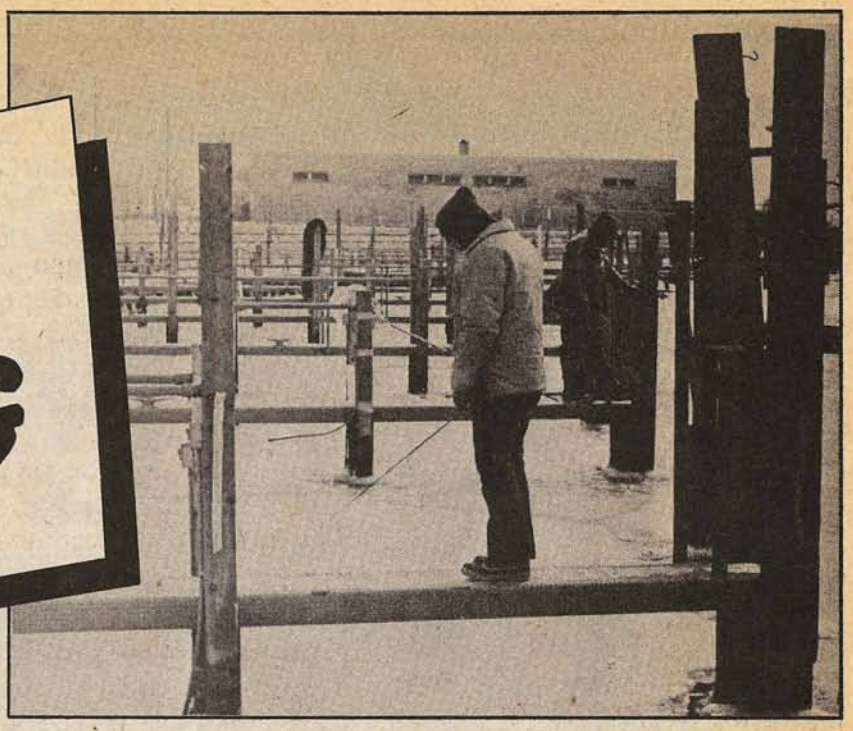

While most of us are busy trying to put winter out of our minds and the city's wealthier population is packing for points south – there's quite a number of Chicago's working men (and a few women) who like to spend four or five hours at a shot out on the frozen harbors of Lake Michigan, ice fishing.

"I like to get out of the house, get away from it all and relax," says Jim Hrncair, a construction worker. Out on Montrose Harbor the nearby high rises fade away, the hustle and noise of the big city are gone and for all practical purposes you could be on a lake in northern Wisconsin.

There's been a significant increase in the number of anglers out on the harbors for the last couple of years. "I went over to Burnham Harbor (by Meigs Field) last week," explains Ed Warwick, "It looked like Winnebago. There must have been 300 men out on the ice. I never saw so many guys out there."

Warwick thinks high gasoline prices are keeping folks from going out to places like Fox Lake, Grass Lake, etc. "It's getting to be a big thing to drive out to the lakes. It'll cost you a good tank of gas to get out there and back. Besides, it's good fishing here. You can go out to the chain and you won't do much better. In fact the guys are going up to Winnebago and they don't catch perch any bigger than those," as he points to a dozen or so perch scattered around him on the ice. War-

Clockwise from upper left: Ralph Stillman, Jim Hrncair and Jim Fugal having a good time on the ice; Marty Currire hooks another perch; Ed Warwick. Center – a day's catch of perch.

wick, a city fireman, has been fishing Lake Michigan since 1937 but just started ice fishing two years ago.

Ralph Stillman used to go out to Fox Lake but now after he's finished at his job in the Post Office he throws on a snow suit over his uniform and gets in an hour or two of fishing. He estimates the trip out to Fox Lake costs him about $35 and "you never know if you'll catch anything."

Pollution control and the stocking of fish have been other factors in making ice fishing popular in Chicago's frontyard. "I don't know if the perch were here all the time," says Warwick, "I assume they were but nobody really fished for them until they put the salmon in the lake. The guys who were fishing for salmon in the late fall started catching perch so they just kept fishing right on through. There's weed beds in through here, there's 20–25 feet of water in this harbor and there's a good current flowing in and out."

For the best technique to catch perch we asked Marty Currire, 62, who's been fishing on the lake since he was 12. Everyone out on the ice seems to know Marty. He explained you need a short rod with a small reel, maggots or spikes for bait, a small bob, keep the hook about two feet off the bottom and keep it moving. "But," he says, "the most important thing is to dress warm." Get a good pair of insulated boots. The costs to start up will run you about $35 – $50. Besides the fishing gear, you'll need a small auger to cut your hole, an ice spoon to scoop off ice as it freezes in the hole and a box to sit on.

The best part has been saved for last – the eating. Warwick told us his favorite is fried perch. "My wife usually mixes flour and salt and pepper and she breads the perch fillets in that. Then she dips them in an egg batter and then she dips them back into cracker meal. Then she gets oil, enough to cover the fish and heats it up just below the smoking point. Put those breaded fillets in there and they'll sink right down to the bottom, then bubble right up to the top and you skim them out. Then you want to have a nice salad, a loaf of French bread, a little potato salad and you make a meal of it. That's real eating."

We asked Marty, who probably hooks more perch than anyone out on the ice, for his favorite recipe. He replied, "I don't eat them."□

Anglers fish off harbor piers when ice is soft.

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"May the Great Spirit shed light on yours and that you may never experience the humiliation that the power of the American government has reduced me to, is the wish of him who, in his native forest, was once as proud as you."

Inscription by Lonnie Poco, beneath "Proud Warrior"

Lonnie Poco

Lonnie Poco, a Quahada Comanche, was born in Lawton, Oklahoma in 1937. He started to paint at an early age, learning Indian crafts by watching the elders of his community. But government policy was to separate young Native Americans from their culture by shipping them to boarding schools where they would be beaten for speaking their own languages.

Mr. Poco continued to develop his art skills, graduating from Chicago's Institute of Modern Design, and becoming a commercial artist. However, it was not until 1972 that he began to paint and draw with Indian themes. It was in 1972, that Mr. Poco founded with eight others, the Indian Art Guild, of which he has been chairman since 1973. In 1975 Mr. Poco stepped aside from commercial art to work for the Indian Health Center. In 1976 he was the director of the American Indian Center here in Chicago. Mr. Poco and his wife Nancy live on Chicago's Northwest side.

"Anishinabi Waki-Aztlan"

An exhibit of Chicano and Native American artists, "Anishinabi Waki-Aztlan" will be held March 21 through April 1, at the Uptown People's Community Service Center, 1222 W. Wilson Avenue, Chicago. The exhibition, hosted by the Chicago Indian Arts Guild and Movimiento Artistico Chicano (MARCH) will be open daily, including weekends, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The title of the exhibition, "Anishinabi Waki-Aztlan" combines the Algonquin for "Land of the People," and the Mexican-Indian name for the ancestral home. Likewise, the show's theme is the common aboriginal heritage of the original Western Hemisphere peoples. Though one group was subdued by Spanish-speaking and the other English-speaking conquerors, the Native American and Chicano are more closely related culturally and racially to each other than with their European conquerors.

On display will be paintings, graphics, sculpture and photography by artists from the Chicago area, from out of state and from Mexico. □

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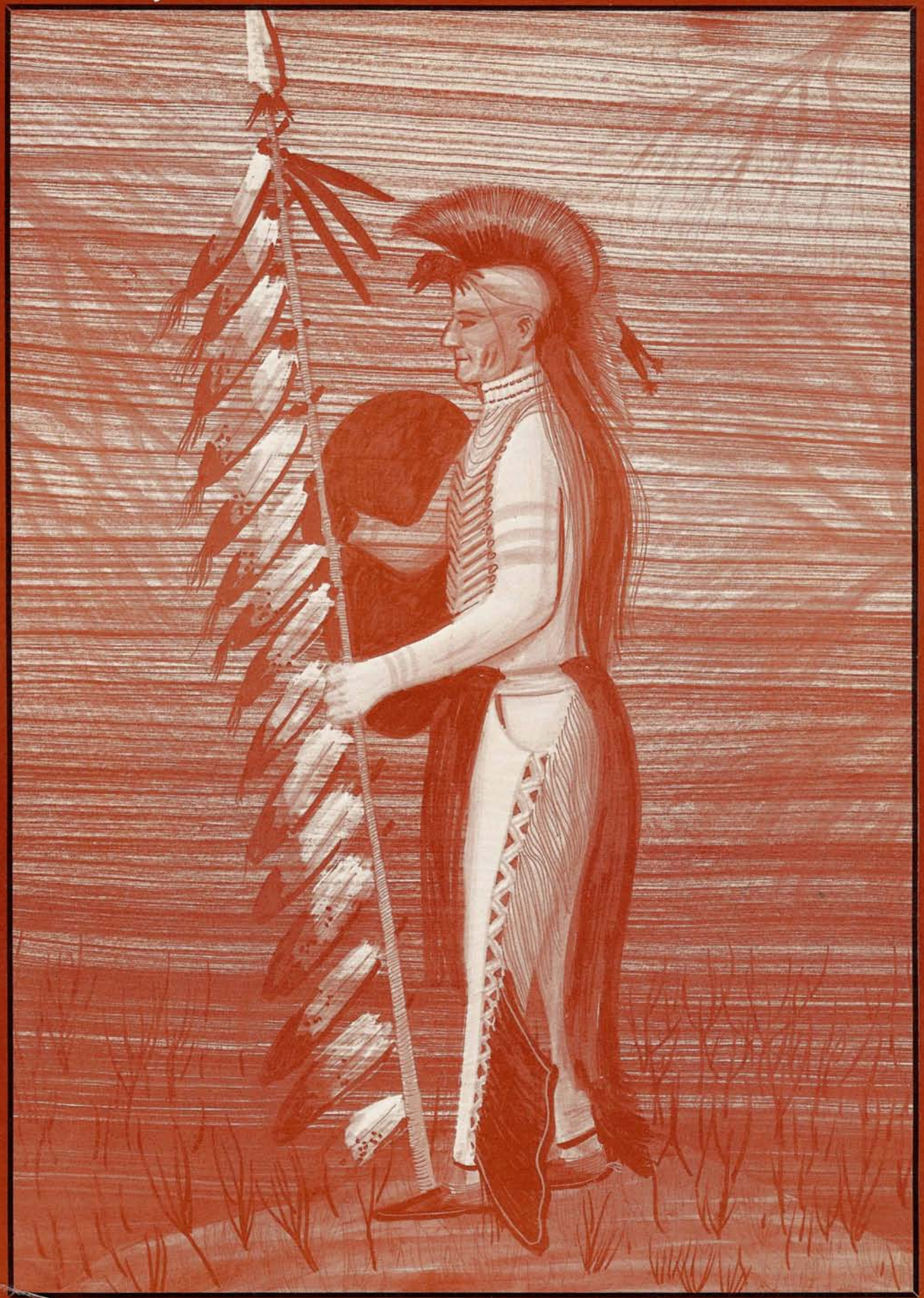

"Proud Warrior" *Marker Drawing by Lonnie Poco, 1979*